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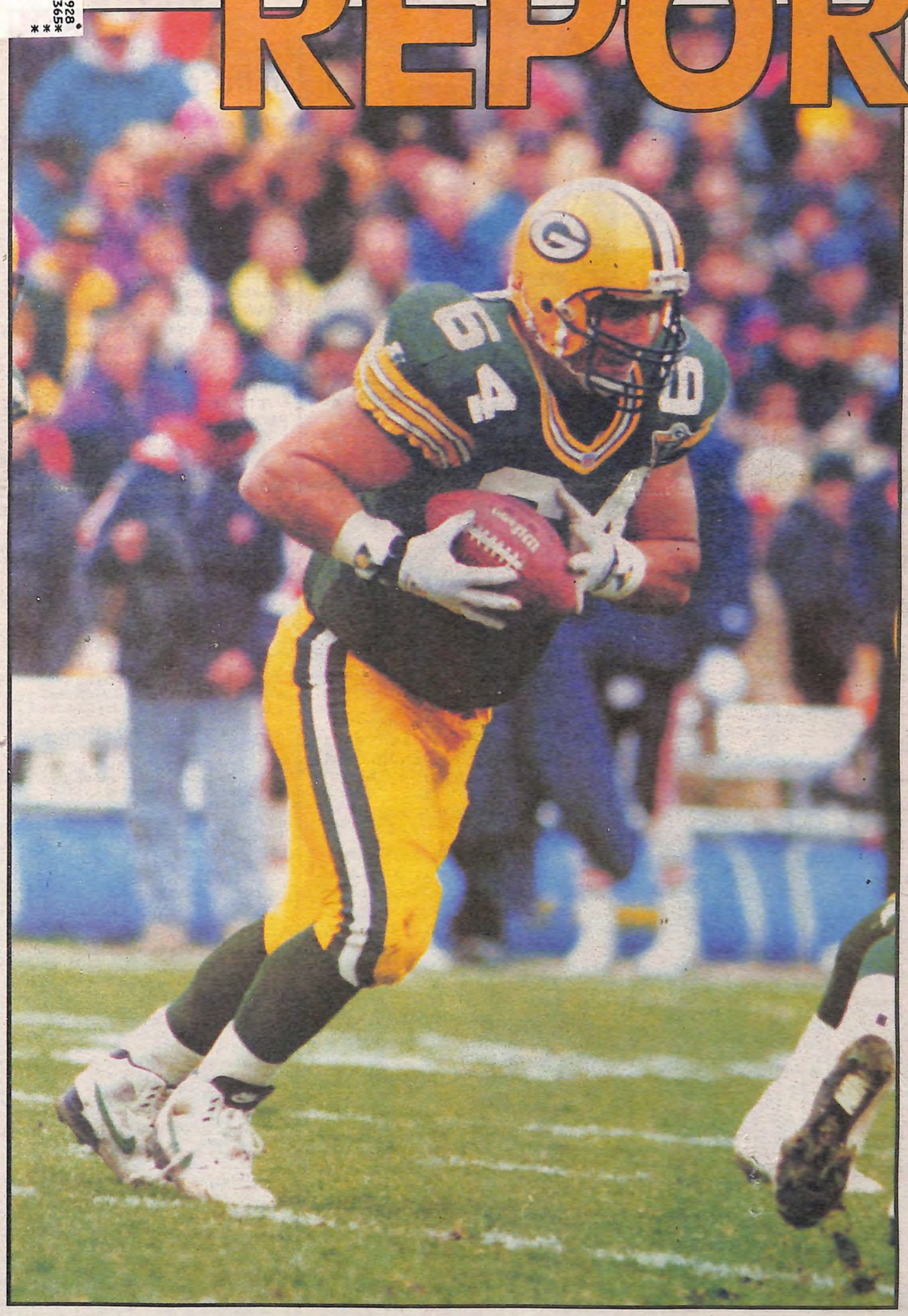
Ray Rutschke's

PACKER REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE GREEN BAY PACKERS AND THE NFL.

Vol. 21 No. 14 November 13, 1993



Chiefs 23, Pack 16

formation

Former Bear signs here

Receiving tradition

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Commentary

Packers didn't deserve to win this Monday night

The pages of a football publication may be an unlikely forum to discuss morality or theology, but here goes:

The Green Bay Packers did not deserve to win Monday night's game at Kansas City.

And they didn't — losing, 23-16, to the Chiefs and dropping to 4-4. At the mid-point of their season, they trail the 7-2 Detroit Lions by 2 1/2 games in the Central Division.

They did not deserve to win for all of the all-too-obvious reasons: Three interceptions and three fumbles. Four times

RAY NITSCHKE

they got inside the Chiefs five yardline but they fumbled in there twice and came away with only two field goals.

That's a potential 28 points. Green Bay managed six.

I don't think the best team won this game. I think the Packers are potentially a better team but they were not the better team Monday night because of the mistakes they made. I think the Packers have a better offense than the Chiefs and more potential in the years to come.

But the "years to come" are obviously not here yet. Potential, somebody mentioned recently, means, "Not very good yet."

And the Packers showed they are not very good yet at making big plays when they need them and avoiding interceptions and fumbles. Did they kill the Packers or what?

Overall, this loss shows the Packers don't know yet how to win. If you can't win the close ones, you can't win championships.

I do keep seeing this potential. I know they can move the ball and I know they have a good defense. But the Packers are having a hard time in key games this year playing up to their potential on each and every game throughout the 60 minutes of the contest. And when they don't play up to that potential, you saw Monday night what can happen — key mistakes at key times that cost the Packers a game they could have —probably should have — won.

The defense did its job for the most part. They entered the game allowing the opposition to score just 17 percent of the time once opponents got inside the 20. The NFL average was 46 percent.

I do think there are times the Packers could play closer to receivers, though.

And the Packer defense failed to produce any turnovers. Of course, there is no guarantee the offense would have done anything with the ball, but getting turnovers obviously stops the other team's scoring opportunity and can be a huge momentum swing. The defense came up with zero interceptions and although the Chiefs fumbled twice, Green Bay didn't recover either. A disappointing evening in that regard.

Offensively, I believe Brett Favre has some growing up to do. And I don't think he'd argue a great deal about that assessment. At least two of the three interceptions he threw were balls which simply should not have been thrown. And he obviously has to learn to hang onto the ball better when he's hit. I know he tries very hard, no question. And there's no question Derrick Thomas is one of the NFL's best. But Brett didn't get it done in terms of hanging onto the ball Monday night.

Brett Favre threw three interceptions Monday night and also watched one of his fumbles get returned 16 yards for a Chiefs' touchdown.

– James V. Biever photo

The Packers potentially are a much better team. It just didn't work Monday night because of mistakes.

It's a big loss. The Vikings lost. The Bears lost. This was a chance to get solidly into second place behind the 7-2 Lions who are playing the fifth-place schedule. Instead, the Packers are back down there with the rest of them, Minnesota and Chicago, behind the Lions.

And now they have to go into a hostile environment with one day less rest and play a difficult Saints team before, unfortunately, some of you will read this — because we obviously could not mail this until Tuesday, Nov. 9.

NFL standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Detroit	7	2	0	.778	187	140
Green Bay	4	4	0	.500	180	144
Minnesota	4	4	0	.500	129	154
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	126	111
Tampa Bay	2	6	0	.250	99	206

Eastern

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Dallas	6	2	0	.750	186	111
N.Y. Giants	5	3	0	.625	160	112
Philadelphia	4	4	0	.500	141	172
Phoenix	3	6	0	.333	168	156
Washington	2	6	0	.250	139	209

Western

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
New Orleans	6	2	0	.750	183	154
San Francisco	5	3	0	.625	210	158
Atlanta	2	6	0	.250	171	222
L.A. Rams	2	6	0	.250	131	192

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	7	1	0	.875	172	97
Miami	6	2	0	.750	182	145
N.Y. Jets	4	4	0	.500	186	141
Indianapolis	3	5	0	.375	128	179
New England	1	8	0	.111	113	200

Central

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Cleveland	5	3	0	.625	163	159
Pittsburgh	5	3	0	.625	192	136
Houston	4	4	0	.500	168	154
Cincinnati	0	8	0	.000	97	186

Western

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Kansas City	6	2	0	.750	133	124
Denver	5	3	0	.625	206	149
L.A. Raiders	5	3	0	.625	152	147
San Diego	4	4	0	.500	144	167
Seattle	4	5	0	.444	143	164

Week 10

Sunday, Nov. 7

BYE: NFC West

Buffalo 13, New England 10 (OT)
Denver 29, Cleveland 14
Dallas 31, N.Y. Giants 9
Pittsburgh 24, Cincinnati 16
San Diego 30, Minnesota 17
Houston 24, Seattle 14
Detroit 23, Tampa Bay 0
L.A. Raiders 16, Chicago 14
N.Y. Jets 27, Miami 10
Phoenix 16, Philadelphia 3
Washington 30, Indianapolis 24

Monday, Nov. 8

Kansas City 23, PACKERS 16

Ray Nitschke's PACKER REPORT

A Royle Publication devoted exclusively to the Green Bay Packers and the NFL.

Vol. 21 No. 14 Nov. 13,1993

On the cover...

Nose tackle John Jurkovic's fourth career kickoff return.
-- David J. Garot photo

In the middle ...

Tight end Ed West.
-- David J. Garot photo

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Mistakes cost another win

Missed chances and turnovers drop Pack to 4-4

by Al Pahl
Managing Editor

Commit six turnovers and you lose.

The Packers did just that in front of 76,742 at Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium and millions more on national television Monday night, turning the ball over six times and failing to take advantage of numerous scoring opportunities en route to a 23-16 loss to the Chiefs.

In the first seven games of the season, the Packers lost only one fumble. Monday they lost three, including two within two yards of paydirt.

The biggest turnover of the game — Green Bay's fifth — came with 5:57 to play. On second-and-goal from the Chief three, Darrell Thompson was running behind right guard Harry Galbreath and right tackle Tootie Robbins.

On the other side of the line, right defensive tackle Dan Saleaumua came off the ball and took on left guard Rich Moran, who appeared to get good body on Saleaumua initially. But the defender moved to his right and shucked Moran, who ended up on the ground.

The six-foot, 300-pounder then tore down the line toward Thompson, exploding into the 217-pound running back and popping the ball straight up in the air.

Kansas City recovered in the end zone. Had Green Bay gotten seven points there, the Packers would have led, 23-20.

Instead, the Chiefs soon got some breathing room, thanks to a 38-yard run by Todd McNair, a third-string halfback who had only seven carries prior to Monday night.

Green Bay's defense forced the Chiefs to settle for a 40-yard field goal which made it 23-16 with 3:26 to play.

Green Bay's final chance

Thus trailing by seven, Brett Favre had a chance to drive his team to the tying touchdown when he took over on his own 21 with 3:16 to play. He hit Sterling Sharpe for three yards on first down. On second down, Favre scrambled around a bit, appearing indecisive as to whether he should throw, pumping twice. He appeared to have plenty of time to ditch the ball, but in the end he was dropped for a two-yard sack by safety Doug Terry.

Either on the completion (and the resulting sandwich tackle) or the sack, Sharpe sprained an ankle. He signaled to the bench that he apparently wanted to come out, but when Green Bay came back from the time out it called after the sack, Sharpe returned to the lineup and caught an eight-yard pass on third-and-nine from his 22.

The two-minute warning followed, allowing Coach Mike Holmgren to plan for fourth-and-one from the 30. Favre dropped back and seemed to have a lot of time before being flushed and running up the left sideline for a first down, getting out of bounds with 1:51 to play at his 33.

A seven-yard completion to Edgar Bennett made it second-and-three on the 40, with 1:36 to play. On that down,

Bryce Paup was Green Bay's brightest statistical spot Monday night, recording three sacks in the Packers' 23-16 loss to the Chiefs. Paup now has 8.5 on the year, one more than Reggie White.

-- James V. Biever photo

Favre threw the ball directly into the hands of safety Martin Bayless. There was absolutely no Packer near Bayless.

And instant replays showed why: Intended receiver Bennett, looping out of the right side of the backfield, was dropped by safety Benny Thompson as he attempted to move from right to left to get to the middle of the field and take the throw. The hit was apparently entirely legal because it occurred within the five-yard zone beyond the line of scrimmage in which such shots are legal — and because it occurred before the ball was thrown.

Thomas forces fumble, K.C. scores

Thus the Packers' last chance ended the way the second half had started for them, after they had built up a 9-3 halftime lead.

On the Packers' first play from scrimmage after intermission, feared speed rusher Derrick Thomas got around left tackle Ken Ruettgers on the outside, then hit Favre from behind, swatting the ball loose. Unofficially, that's the first sack Ruettgers has yielded this season.

Saleaumua scooped it up and raced untouched, 16 yards to paydirt. Nick Lowery's extra point gave the Chiefs a 10-9 lead just 2:31 into the third quarter.

That play was the game's big momentum switch.

Robert Brooks returned the ensuing kickoff 39 yards to the Packer 39, but Kansas City's inspired defense forced the Packers to punt after only three plays.

The Chiefs' offense came right back with a nice march but Green Bay's defense forced the home team to settle for a 34-yard field goal which gave them a 13-9 lead with 6:11 to play in the period.

Interception kills promising drive

A promising Packer drive followed, but fizzled just after it crossed midfield, when Favre bumped into a blocker, then threw long anyway for tight end Jackie Harris. It was intercepted by safety Charles Mincy.

Kansas City's ensuing drive, 76 yards in only six plays, pushed its lead to 20-9 with 13:54 to play in the game.

Green Bay answered that with its best offensive performance of the night. It started with Marcus Wilson's 37-yard kickoff return to the Packer 45. A completion to Sharpe moved the ball to Kansas City's 35.

On first down there, Favre threw a perfect pass to Harris up the right sideline for six points. Chris Jacke's extra point pulled Green Bay within four, 20-16, with 12:59 to play.

The Packers got a break on the ensuing kickoff when Kansas City's Fred Jones touched the ball on its way out of bounds, dooming his offense to take possession at its own two yardline.

Four plays later, Bryce Paup sacked Krieg, forcing a fumble which the quarterback recovered himself. Johnny Holland forced tight end Jonathan Hayes to drop a pass on second down and on third down, Paup rang up a five-yard sack.

Kansas City punted out of its own end zone and the Packers took over on their 44 with 9:20 to play, trailing by only five. But this was the drive which ended in Thompson's fumble near the goal line.

Missed first-half opportunities

Most of the Packers' other missed opportunities came in the first half.

One of the times they could have had more was their final possession before intermission, which ended in a 19-yard field goal, Jacke's first field goal from less than 20 yards this season.

Green Bay later took possession at its own 34, 3:16 before halftime. Bennett's 11-yard run moved the ball to the 45. From there, Thompson legged it 21 yards up the right side, crossing midfield before being brought down at the Chief 34. The play was what this writer calls a wrap-around draw. Favre dropped back as if to pass, with Thompson, the only back in the backfield, setting as if to pass-block. From behind Thompson, Favre reached around the Minnesota alum and handed him the ball. It was the first time in 1993 this writer recalls that play, which Holmgren called more often a season ago.

Continued on page 7

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GAME STATISTICS

Green Bay Packers	3	6	0	7	16
Kansas City Chiefs	3	0	10	10	23

First Quarter

Kansas City, FG Lowery 23, 5:18.

Green Bay, Jacke 23, 12:37.

Second Quarter

Green Bay, FG Jacke 51, 2:59.

Green Bay, FG Jacke 19, 14:07.

Third Quarter

Kansas City, Saleaumua 16 yard fumble return (Lowery kick), 2:31.

Kansas City, Lowery 34, 8:49.

Fourth Quarter

Kansas City, Allen 1 run (Lowery kick), 1:06.

Green Bay, Harris 35 yard pass from Favre (Jacke kick), 2:01.

Kansas City, FG Lowery 40, 11:34.

Attendance: 76,742.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Green Bay — Darrell Thompson 12-51, Edgar Bennett 8-26, Brett Favre 4-22.

Kansas City — Todd McNair 2-54, Marcus Allen 17-35, Kimble Anders 3-9, Ernie Thompson 1-3, Dave Krieg 3-minus 1.

PASSING

Green Bay — Brett Favre 20-34-3-213.

Kansas City — Dave Krieg 17-30-0-170.

RECEIVING

Green Bay — Sterling Sharpe 7-76, Jackie Harris 6-86, Edgar Bennett 3-21, Mark Clayton 2-29, Ed West 1-5, Darrell Thompson 1-minus 4.

Kansas City — J.J. Birden 5-64, Willie Davis 3-53, Kimble Anders 2-19, Marcus Allen 2-15, Johnathan Hayes 2-9, Keith Cash 2-4, Fred Jones 1-6.

Missed field goals: Kansas City, Nick Lowery 47.

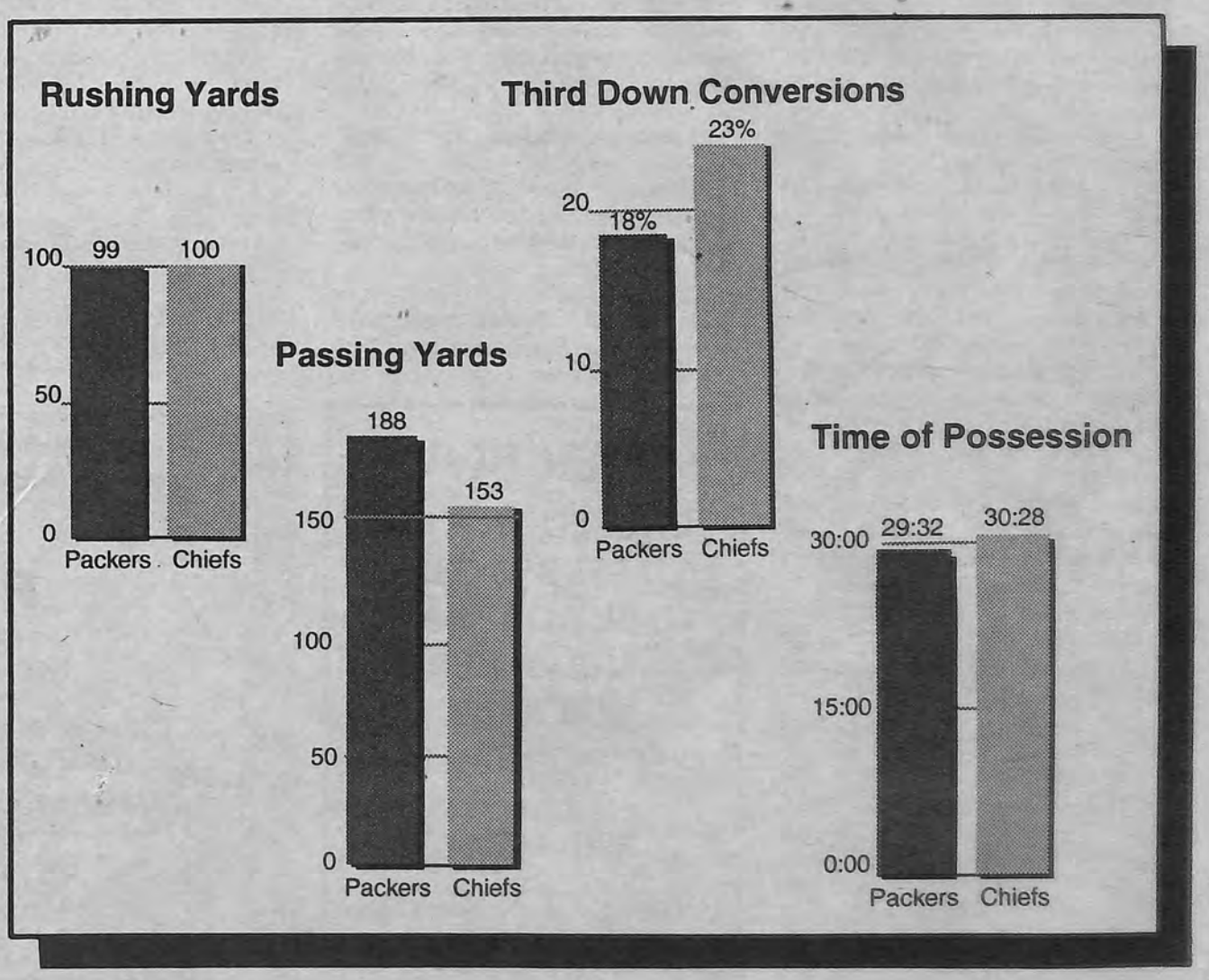
Reggie White got one sack Monday night and thus stands second on the team with 6.5 this season.

— James V. Biever photo

Tony Bennett played in his second game of the season Monday night at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City.

— James V. Biever photo

	Packers	Chiefs
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	20	15
By Rushing	7	6
By Passing	9	8
By Penalty	4	1
3RD DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	2	3
Attempted	11	13
Percent Made	18%	23%
4TH DOWN EFFICIENCY		
Made	1	0
Attempted	1	1
Percent Made	100%	0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	287	253
Total Off. Plays	62	60
Av. Gain Per Play	4.6	4.2
NET YARDS RUSHING	99	100
Total Rushing Plays	24	26
Av. Gain Per Rush	4.1	3.8
NET YARDS PASSING	188	153
Attempts	34	30
Completions	20	17
Interceptions	3	0
Sacks	4	4
Yards Lost	25	17
PUNTS	2	5
Yards	100	206
Average	50.0	41.2
PUNT RETURNS	3	2
Yards	24	20
PENALTIES	5	4
Yards	7	11
KICKOFFS	6	4
Return Yardage	157	80
FUMBLES	68	116
Lost	3	0
INTERCEPTIONS	0	3
Returns	0	84
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:32	30:28



Tight end Jackie Harris led Green Bay receivers in yardage Monday night, grabbing six passes for 86 yards. Sterling Sharpe had seven catches for 76 yards.

-- James V. Biever photo

Unofficially, left tackle Ken Ruettgers gave up his first sack of the season Monday night. Speed rusher Derrick Thomas got all the way around Ruettgers and slapped the ball out of Brett Favre's hand. Dan Saleaumua recovered the ball and rambled 16 yards to paydirt.

-- James V. Biever photo

Commentary

Thompson's fumble ends scoring chance

AL PAHL

The Packers had lost only one fumble all season coming into the Chiefs' game.

But Monday night in Kansas City, halfback Darrell Thompson had the misfortune of committing the Packers' biggest fumble of the season.

"There was a little gap and I tried to squeeze through it and he hit me and I lost the ball," Thompson said. "I feel terrible. It could happen at any time. It just happened at the wrong time this time."

In Dan Saleaumua's opinion, causing that fumble was his biggest contribution to Kansas City's victory over the Packers because it came late in the fourth quarter when the Packers seemed poised to regain the lead in what up until then had been a see-saw defensive struggle.

"It just proves that once in a while everybody has a great game," said Saleaumua. "I just had mine on national television."

Saleaumua knocked the ball out of Thompson's hands near the Chiefs' goalline with 5:57 to play, Tracy Rogers recovered for Kansas City in the end zone, and the Packers fell to 4-4.

Trailing, 20-16, the Packers drove to the Chiefs' three. On second and goal, Darrell Thompson cut right and was clobbered by every one of Saleaumua's 315 pounds.

"I knew it was going to be a run play," Saleaumua said. "I was on the corner and all I'm supposed to do was penetrate. The guard came down on me fast, I slammed him and then I happened to see the ball-carrier cut back right into my hole. And there we go."

Big night for Saleaumua

All in all, it was a career night for the happy-go-lucky Samoan.

The Packers had a 9-3 lead on three Chris Jacke field goals when Derrick Thomas stripped Brett Favre of the ball.

It bounced squarely into Saleaumua's hands, and he rumbled untouched 16 yards into the end zone.

"I came around the corner and the quarterback, for one of the few times in the game, pumped the ball," Thomas said. "It gave me the opportunity to come around for the strip. Saleaumua's a ball magnet. It went right to him. I don't think anybody knew he had it.

"Maybe one lineman knew he had the ball. The rest of the linemen just stopped. He carried the ball in the right arm and he ran well. I was impressed."

For Saleaumua, the play unfolded as if in slow motion.

"I saw Derrick come around the corner and I saw the ball in the quarterback's hand, and it was like slow motion and I thought, 'Oh, my God, Derrick's going to hit it,' " he said.

"The ball went right to me. I thought the hell with falling on it, I'm going to run. I picked up some blocks and I got my wide body in there."

"It was a great play by a great player," said Packer center Frank Winters. "They caused the fumble and it bounced right into his hands. I was standing right in front of him and I had no idea he had the ball."

K.C. potpourri

A few late-night notes from Kansas City: (and you'll notice there are more items here about the winners than the Packers).

Bryce Paup grabbed the Packers' sack lead with 8.5 on the strength of his three-sack performance in Arrowhead Stadium Monday night.

Reggie White is No. 2 with 7.5.

Continued on page 19

PACKERS-at-LIONS
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Thompson happy with chance

Soft-spoken Minnesotan runs with it

Darrell Thompson says the increased use of the I formation is overemphasized in media coverage but is nonetheless very happy to be getting more opportunities to take the ball and run with it.

-- Vernon J. Biever photo

It would appear the recent upturn in the Packers' on-field fortunes and Darrell Thompson's sudden emergence as the wheelhorse of the revitalized running game represent more than a happy coincidence.

Whatever the case, the latter may have come as a surprise to some of the far-flung faithful. But not, it can be documented, to the "author" himself.

To Thompson, one who appears to have his profession and his life in proper perspective, it was merely a matter of opportunity — no more and no less.

He also dismisses the suggestion he might feel "re-born," professionally speaking, after recovery from an injury which reduced his 1992 season to seven games — and in light of a presumed need to re-assert himself in the running game following John Stephens' departure.

"I think that," Darrell said, "would be over-stating the case."

But he did acknowledge, "I feel good — I feel blessed with the opportunity...I'm just trying to take advantage of it."

Stephens trade put him in driver's seat

The "opportunity" developed abruptly three weeks ago when Stephens, acquired in an off-season trade, was dealt to the Falcons, clearing the way for Thompson to take over as the starting halfback here.

LEE REMMEL

"There are things I can do better," Darrell volunteered while assessing his performance in the interim, "but that will come with time, hopefully."

Be that as it may, he had made a major impact in two starts to that point, averaging just under five yards per carry, posting the first 100-yard day of his career in the process and sealing the Packers' 17-3 victory over the Bears with an impressive 17-yard scoring run.

And, running backs Coach Gil Haskell is convinced, it is only the beginning for the former University of Minnesota standout, a 1,000-yard rusher all four of his years there before becoming a Packer first-round pick in 1990.

"I think he's going to be consistently productive from now on," Haskell said. "He's just got to get the opportunity to carry. Last year, he missed nine games because of injury but when he came back he played very well.

"This year, John Stephens came in and played well but then we lost him in a trade. All of a sudden, Darrell's gotten an opportunity and he's had two excellent games.

"And I think he's going to improve as the season goes on. He's going to get better and better as we get further into the season.

"Darrell is a hard worker — a very hard worker. He's like those backs at USC (where Haskell earlier coached under John Robinson). He has that kind of work habits...I'm paying him a high compliment in saying that."

'There's more out there than football'

Thompson, who exhibits a quiet confidence in his abilities, was asked if he might have done as well earlier, given the opportunity?

"I would like to think so," he replied without hesitation. "In the past, it was the way the offense was set up. I was the fullback and didn't get to carry the ball that much. And I was the lead back a lot of the time.

"I don't have any problem with that," he was quick to assure. "You have to do what they tell you to do."

Thompson went on to note, "Things actually were getting better with that offense (under then Head Coach Lindy Infante in 1991). But we were struggling and we weren't scoring many points. And when you're not scoring many points, you're not going to run that much."

Given the "now" nature of pro ball, had there been any feeling, coming into his fourth season, that it was now-or-never for him in 1993?

"No, I didn't feel that way. Because I felt like if I was given the opportunity, I could do well. When I was healthy, I felt I did well.

"That's just the way the game is," Thompson added. "I've already accepted that. I wouldn't be happy with it, but I realize you can be gone at any time."

Putting things in "big picture" perspective, Darrell was prompted to observe, "There's more out there than just football. There's so much more to a person than just being a player. The media and the fans may not see that because they just see him as a player.

"It's not their fault," Thompson appended. "That's just the way it is."

Addressing the theory that installing more running plays from the I-formation for him has been the key factor in his rushing resurgence, Darrell exhibited a slight smile and observed, "I think it's made a difference. (But) I think people are making a bigger deal of it than they should be. We've run out of the 'I' in the past and out of the split backfield in different formations. It (the 'I') is a good formation for any back — not just Darrell Thompson.

"You get a better chance to look at things just because you're deeper. It's more advantageous than if you're up real close because then you're already in the muddle. If you're back, you can see things better."

Asked to describe what he considers his best assets, Thompson pondered the point, then rejoined, "I guess I'm kind of an aggressive runner. I try to make good decisions quickly. I don't second-guess that much, once I've made the decision. I don't think about it that much — I just try to let it flow. If you think too much, I think you can get messed up."

Better to attack one than have three or four jump you

The latter observation prompted him to confide, "I like what Tootie Robbins said about his not working out in the weight room: 'I just use what God gave me.' He's big and strong and he's blessed.

"(But) I do watch film. I try just to get comfortable. I think you can overdo it sometimes."

Holmgren, it was noted, has described him as having "a propensity to spot somebody and run as hard as you can right into 'em."

"In a way, yeah," Darrell acknowledged, breaking into a smile. "Sometimes there's nowhere else to go. I'd much rather attack one person than get hit by two or three or four...Sometimes it'll get you in trouble. If there's space, I'll try to run away from them.

"(But) I think it's better to hit somebody," he continued with solid logic, "than get hit. That's an aggressive running style."

'I like kids a lot'

As may already have been divined, Darrell has interests and concerns beyond football. One of them is completing a degree in sociology at Minnesota, which he will be continuing to work toward in the off-season. His purpose?

"I like kids a lot," Thompson explained. "I volunteer a lot of time with kids...I go talk to kids (in Minneapolis, his residence), go to homes, like halfway houses to talk to them. I talk to them about how I feel about things. Life isn't fair — that's a given. But you have to deal with what is."

In his leisure, Darrell also can be found reading —when he's not biking or playing basketball.

"I like to read about people," he informed. "I like to read about black leaders. And I read about money and investments. Because, at 24 or 25, players make a pretty good amount of money and we need to know what to do with it. You need a financial planner but you also need to have a plan yourself — for when you're 65, 55, 45, coming down."

At the moment, however, the focus, necessarily, is on football.

His eyes light up with anticipation when he assesses the team as a whole.

"I think we're a fast team," he said. "And I think we have a lot of people with good character who care about each other...If somebody doesn't have a tie — or somebody needs a ride — there's always somebody to help you out...Nice people.

"Like in the past, somebody might say, 'Hey, rookie, get off the table' (when waiting to get taped in the training room). That might happen now, too, but it would only be in a joking manner...Nicer people.

"We have a lot of good people — people who will fight. Good people to go to battle with."

...People like Darrell Thompson.

Loss

Continued from page 3

Coming out of the two-minute warning, Favre nearly threw an interception to Dale Carter but the ball was thrown so hard Carter couldn't hang on.

Favre came right back, this time to the other side of the field, where he nailed Mark Clayton for a 13-yard gain. Kansas City was flagged for unnecessary roughness, apparently for pushing Clayton after he was out of bounds. That moved Green Bay to a first-and-goal just 10 yards from paydirt.

But Kansas City's defense stiffened there. Favre found Harris for five yards on first down, seemingly putting the Packers in a good situation: Second-and-goal from the five. But on second down, Bayless made a marvelous defensive play to break up a pass for Sharpe in the back of the end zone. Favre then hit Sharpe for four yards, with the South Carolina alum sliding out of bounds less than a yard from the end zone.

One fourth-and-goal with 56 seconds left, Holmgren chose to try the field goal and Jackie nailed the 19-yarder.

Three chances to score from the 2

The Packers had three chances to score from the Kansas City two on their previous possession but were even less successful.

That march had started on the Packer 38, 8:35 before halftime. Favre threw to Bennett for 15 yards on first down. Bennett was very open on a circle route out of the left side of the backfield. Favre read a blitz up the middle and nailed the fullback for Green Bay's fifth first down of the evening. The play moved the ball across midfield to the Chief 48.

Harris caught a nine-yard pass after that. On third and one, Favre pulled out a play not previously run this season. Rolling to the short side of the field, Favre waited for Harris to brush-block a linebacker before moving into his pass pattern. As the Chiefs closed on the quarterback, he shoveled the ball ahead, underhanded, hitting Harris for an 11-yard gain all the way to the 28.

Sharpe made an outstanding catch on the next play, grabbing the ball and dragging both feet while diving out of bounds at the two.

Favre just didn't appear to have it all together at this point in the game.

On first down, he fell down on his way to handing the ball off to Bennett, who was stacked up for no gain. Favre also fell down on second down. On third-and-goal from the two, Favre rolled left, then started to run but was soon sandwiched by Thomas and defensive tackle Joe Phillips, forcing a fumble. Lonnie Marts recovered at the Chief 14.

The Packers had looked hot early: They opened with a 16-yard completion from Favre to Harris which moved the ball from their 27 to the 43. But three plays later, Favre was flushed right and threw deep for Harris but the ball was intercepted.

"That was the worst, dumbest pass I've ever seen Brett Favre throw," Max McGee said at the time. The former Packer receiver is the color commentator on the Packer Radio Network.

Packer defense tough inside the 20

Kansas City's offense got the ball on Green Bay's 22 and managed to burrow to the five, but Green Bay's defense stiffened there, forcing a field goal which made it 3-0 just 5:18 into the game. Green Bay's defense entered the game allowing opponents, once they got inside the Packer 20, to score just 17 percent of the time, the best percentage in the league (The NFL avg. was 46 percent).

It was three-downs-and-punt for Green Bay on its ensuing drive. The Packer defense kept its pressure on when the Chiefs got the ball back. It allowed no yards on the first two plays. On third-and-10, Paup sacked Krieg.

After Kansas City punted, the Packers took over at the Chief 46 with 6:43 left in the first quarter. They pushed all the way to the Chief five, mostly by running the ball. Green Bay was forced to settle for a field goal, with Jacke nailing a 23-yarder that timed the game at three, with 2:23 left in the opening period.

Green Bay's defense gave up a 31-yard completion as the quarter ended but stiffened soon thereafter. On third-and-seven at the Packer 29, David Grant battled down a pass, forcing Kansas City to attempt a field goal.

Rookie Doug Evans blew in untouched from the right side of the Packers' formation to easily block the field-goal attempt and pounce on it at the Packer 46.

Green Bay got the ball across midfield but progressed only as far as the Chief 33. Jackie nailed a 51-yarder which made it 6-3 with 12:01 to play in the second quarter.

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Hutson, Lofton, Sharpe

Packers receive tradition

Don Hutson, James Lofton and now Sterling Sharpe.

You might call it "The Green Bay Tradition"...these three great pass receivers.

Lofton came to the Packers in 1978 and a few years later started hammering at some of Hutson's records. Some folks said he's carrying on the Hutson tradition.

And now Sharpe has taken up the Hutson torch — 58 years removed from Don's first season and 15 years from James' start.

ART DALEY

Let me tell you something crazy: These three headliners were bothered with the same kind of injuries. All three had foot problems.

Hutson had tender feet. Somebody once dubbed him "tenderfoot." He walked like he was walking on eggs at times.

Lofton was bothered in 1980 with a bad arch, mostly late in the season. He went in for one pass vs. Houston to keep a string alive that year.

And Sharpe came up with a troublesome Achilles heel earlier this season.

Pretty good coincidence, but here's a better one:

All three of those guys had some fun playing different positions other than wide receiver (end in Hutson's day).

Hutson, of course, played offense and defense during at least six of his 11 seasons. He was a safety on defense and an end on offense. In addition, he kicked extra points (172) and field goals (7).

Lofton, decades removed from the two-way player, worked five plays on defense against the 49ers in Milwaukee Nov. 9, 1980. He was a safety and got credit for one tackle and one assist.

Sharpe didn't work on defense but he performed two plays at quarterback at Tampa Bay Oct. 24. Taking the snap a few yards behind the center (as in a shotgun), Sharpe ran for five yards and then completed a one-yard pass to Robert Brooks.

Lofton's shift to defense had a lot of viewers wondering whether somebody had switched uniforms, what with the score being tied, 13-13. Perhaps, Coach Bart Starr had been egged on by his players, but James got the shot and helped force the 49ers to punt. The Pack won, 23-16.

"It has been a standing joke around here that I can play defense. You know I went both ways in high school," Lofton said. Asked if he was afraid of getting hurt, Loftson said, "I just played centerfield (deep man on a 3-1-7 defense). You can't get hurt back there."

Never the less, Lofton had to make a good tackle of Don Woods to force the punt. "No, I wasn't worried about hurting him," Lofton laughed later.

Lofton had his big days with the Pack but he had a problem squeezing the ball later with the Raiders. The Bills picked him up for free and he was a big factor in leading them to the two straight Super Bowls. Now 37, Lofton is closing out his 16-year career this season with the Eagles. Or is he?

While Sharpe certainly made a lot of fans chuckle when he replaced Brett Favre, his biggest feat that day was catching four touchdown passes to tie the Packer record set by Hutson against the Lions in Milwaukee Oct. 7, 1945.

Seven different Packers have caught three TD passes in one game, including six times by Hutson and twice each by Max McGee and Lofton. Four in one game seemed untouchable in this day and age of great defenses — until Sharpe gave Tampa Bay's secondary fits.

The Packers beat Detroit, 57-21, on Hutson's four-TD day and they beat Tampa Bay, 37-14, on Sharpe's four-score day.

Sharpe counted his 24 on plays of 7, 30, 10 and 32 yards on passes from Favre. Hutson caught his passes from a halfback named Roy McKay on plays of 59, 46, 17 and 6 yards.

Sharpe caught one TD pass in the first quarter, two in the second and one in the fourth. Hutson caught all four of his in the second quarter. He scored 31 points on the day — four TDs and seven on extra point kicks (one missed).

Four other TDs were scored: Irv Comp, the Pack's regular passer, threw a 46-yard TD pass to Clyde Goodnight, who retired recently as a country doctor; Lou Brock threw a 59-yard TD pass to Comp; and Ted Fritsch and Charley Brock each returned interceptions for TDs. To make it 57, Goodnight got credit for a safety.

Landslide victories are unpredictable. The 1945 thing vs. Detroit came after the Pack beat the Bears, 31-21. The 1993 thing vs. the Bucs came after a bye week, which was preceded by a 30-27 squeeze over the Broncos.

Here's a warning: The 1945 Packers closed their season at Detroit and, you guessed it, the Pack scored three points and Detroit produced 14. The angry Tampa Bays will visit Green Bay Nov. 28. The Packers close their 1993 season at Detroit Jan. 2.

The Packers, of course, have been blessed with skilled receivers like the aforementioned trio, but they've also had a good stable of "other" receivers.

During the red-hot 1960s, Vince Lombardi wanted balance in his pass attack and thus didn't favor a big-numbers receiver. Boyd Dowler wound up with the most catches, 448, and Max McGee was next with 345. Dowler averaged 15.4 per catch, McGee 18.2. They were sure-fingered receivers but not flashy.

Ironically, none of the above could match or better the per-catch averages of Billy Howton (1952-58) and Carroll Dale (1965-72), who replaced McGee and figured heavily in the Pack's title triple. Both of them could fly and Dale averaged a Packer record 19.6 and Howton 18.4, a shade ahead of Lofton and McGee, both 18.2. Sharpe averaged 14.8 coming into this season. This year, he took an 11.3 average to Kansas City.

Traditionally, the Packers have been exponents of the forward pass. Thus, good pass receivers have blossomed. Passers? That's another story.

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PACKER NOTES

Packers sign former Bear, Anthony Morgan

To hear the newest Packer tell it, changing sides in the NFL's fiercest and most storied rivalry isn't that difficult.

"I got here yesterday and I felt welcome. I played for Chicago for three years but the guys were real pleased with me and glad to have me," wide receiver Anthony Morgan said Thursday, following his first practice as a Packer. "And I'm glad to be here."

Waived by Chicago Monday, the third-year Tennessee alum signed with the Packers Wednesday and was on the field Thursday for the Packers' first closed practice of the Mike Holmgren regime. Holmgren closed the workout to media members without explanation.

Morgan has often been injured the past two seasons. He is not an intense practice player, according to some members of the Chicago media, who believe those two factors combined to put him in Chicago head Coach Dave Wannstedt's doghouse.

"I don't know," Morgan said. "That's behind me. I don't know why the situation was the way it was. I never said anything bad. I could have said something bad but I wasn't like that. Now I'm a Green Bay Packer and these guys welcome me with open arms. I'm just ready to contribute to the Packers.

"I think I'll fit real good. I'm just going to come out and do what I have to do and just get with the guys and stuff and just play football."

Morgan, a 6-foot-1, 195-pound speedster, was Chicago's fifth-round draft choice in 1991. He became the first rookie to start on offense since Wendell Davis in 1988.

In 1991, Morgan injured his knee in practice Sept. 11 and did not play until Sept. 29. He injured his neck at Green Bay Oct. 17 but on Nov. 17 hauled in an 84-yard touchdown pass at Indianapolis, which was the Bears' longest reception of the year. He played in 14 games, starting two, including Opening Day.

Last season he again had the team's longest catch of the year, an 83-yard touchdown against Tampa Bay, his second catch of the season on Oct. 18. Morgan, who will wear No. 81 here, played in 12 games, starting four.

He had the highest per-catch average on the Bears, 23.1 yards, last year. He was limited in training camp due to an off-season knee injury and surgery. Morgan opened the year on injured reserve but was activated Sept. 30, after sitting out the required four games. He played in 12 games, starting four.

This season, he suffered a concussion Aug. 14 on a hit by former Packer Chuck Cecil and missed the remainder of the pre-season schedule. That combined with a hamstring injury later to keep him out of the Bears' first six regular-season games. Morgan's first 1993 appearance was here Oct. 31. He played about 20 plays without making a reception.

Cornerback Corey Harris is on schedule rehabilitating his knee and should be back on the field sometime this month.
— James V. Biever photo

WR Shawn Collins waived Nov. 1

Wide receiver Shawn Collins was waived Nov. 1 by the Packers. The former Falcon and Brown signed here as a free agent Aug. 5. He was waived during final cuts, Aug. 30, then re-signed Aug. 31. He saw little action in four regular-season games and had no receptions.

General Manager Ron Wolf said Collins was waived purely for football reasons; his departure had nothing to do with reports Collins was involved in an altercation with a Green Bay man at a local bar. That man was kicked out of the establishment and later struck by a car and killed as he walked home.

Hamstring hampers Bruce Pickens

Cornerback Bruce Pickens, acquired Oct. 13 from Atlanta in exchange for running back John Stephens (who was later cut but signed with the Chiefs Wednesday), went through his first full practice Wednesday since his initial week here. A hamstring problem had him listed as questionable for the Chiefs' game.

"That's a tough one," Coach Mike Holmgren said Wednesday, "While he can do some things in practice, can he turn and sprint after a guy (in a game)? That's a decision we have to make.

"If he is healthy, then the other decision I have to make boils down to (keeping) Sammy Walker or Pickens (active). Sammy did a nice job on special teams (Sunday)."

C. Harris may return soon

Cornerback Corey Harris was the NFL's second-leading kickoff returner when he tore a posterior cruciate ligament Oct. 3. It did not require surgery and Harris' rehabilitation is on schedule, Coach Mike Holmgren said Wednesday.

"I hesitate to give you a timetable," the coach said. "I think in another week it would have been eight weeks, just about, which is where we thought we could be so I have my fingers crossed that maybe in a week or two he'll be able to get back in there."

When's Dat tailgate party?

The most recent America's Pack newsletter carried an incorrect date for one of two get-togethers the fan club has planned for this weekend in New Orleans.

The first party will be Saturday, Nov. 13 at Caddyshack, 920 Poydras, 4-6 p.m. That bar is three blocks from the Superdome.

The game-day tailgate party will be 10-11:30 a.m. at the Caddyshack. Tickets, $12, for Sunday are sold *in advance only*. Suzi and Mary at America's Pack have the tickets, phone (414) 733-4465.

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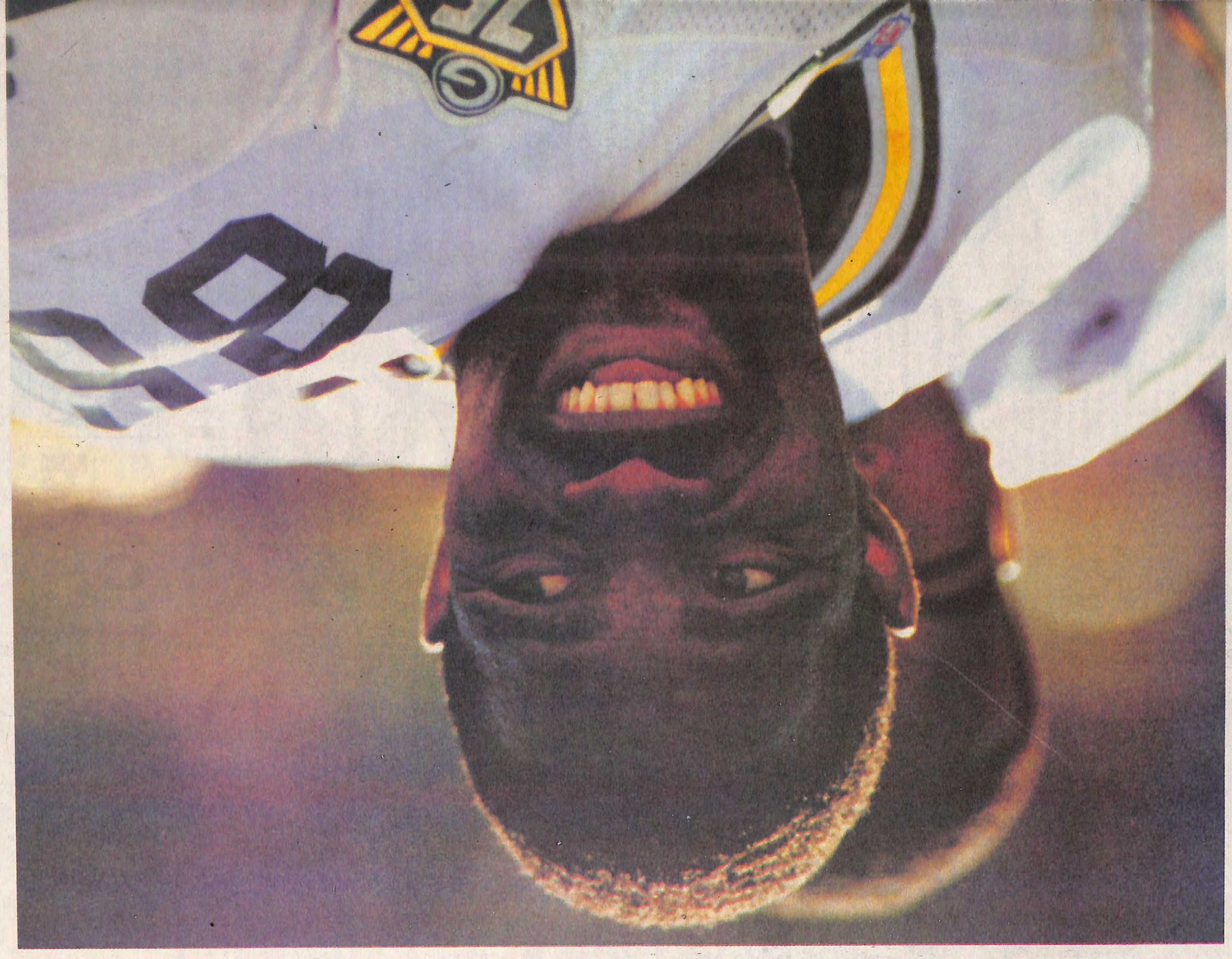

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No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College	How Acquired
4	Brett Favre	QB	6-2	218	23	3	Southern Mississippi	T-92 (Atl)
8	Mark Brunell	QB	6-1	208	22	R	Washington	D5a-93
9	Bryan Wagner	P	6-2	200	31	7	Cal State-Northridge	FA-92
11	Ty Detmer	QB	6-0	190	25	1	Brigham Young	D9a-92
13	Chris Jacke	K	6-0	200	27	5	Texas-El Paso	D6-89
20	Kevin Williams	RB	6-1	215	23	R	UCLA	FA-93 (Den)
23	Sammy Walker	CB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas Tech	FA-93
24	Tim Hauck	S	5-11	185	26	4	Montana	PB-91 (NE)
27	Terrell Buckley	CB	5-9	174	21	2	Florida State	D1-92
29	Marcus Wilson	RB	6-1	210	25	2	Virginia	FA-92
30	Corey Harris	DB	5-11	195	23	2	Vanderbilt	W-92 (Hou)
31	George Teague	DB	6-1	187	22	R	Alabama	D1b-93
33	Doug Evans	DB	6-1	188	22	R	Louisiana Tech	D6a-93
34	Edgar Bennett	RB	6-0	216	24	2	Florida State	D4-92
36	LeRoy Butler	S	6-0	205	24	4	Florida State	D2-90
38	Bruce Pickens	CB	5-11	190	25	3	Nebraska	T-93 (Atl)
39	Darrell Thompson	RB	6-1	217	25	4	Minnesota	D1b-90
44	Dexter McNabb	FB	6-2	245	23	2	Florida	D5a-92
45	Mike Prior	S	6-0	215	29	8	Illinois State	UFA-93 (Ind)
47	Roland Mitchell	CB	5-11	195	29	7	Texas Tech	PB-91 (Atl)
50	Johnny Holland	LB	6-3	235	28	7	Texas A&M	D2-87
52	Frank Winters	C/G	6-3	285	29	7	Western Illinois	PB-92 (KC)
53	George Koonce	LB	6-1	238	24	2	East Carolina	FA-92
54	Keo Coleman	ILB	6-1	255	23	2	Mississippi State	FA-93
56	James Willis	LB	6-2	235	20	R	Auburn	D5b-93
57	Rich Moran	G	6-3	280	31	9	San Diego State	D3-85
59	Wayne Simmons	LB	6-3	240	23	R	Clemson	D1a-93
60	Lance Zeno	C/G	6-4	279	26	2	UCLA	FA-93
62	Matt Brock	DE	6-6	280	27	5	Oregon	D3a-89
64	John Jurkovic	NT	6-2	285	25	3	Eastern Illinois	FA-91
67	Paul Hutchins	T	6-5	335	27	R	Western Michigan	FA-93 (D-6b 93)
68	Joe Sims	T/G	6-3	310	24	3	Nebraska	FA-92
71	Gilbert Brown	DE	6-2	330	22	R	Kansas	W-93 (Min)
72	Earl Dotson	T	6-4	315	22	R	Texas A&I	D3-93
73	Tootie Robbins	T	6-5	315	35	12	East Carolina	FA-93
74	Doug Widell	G	6-4	280	26	5	Boston College	T-93 (Den)
75	Ken Ruettgers	T	6-6	290	30	9	Southern California	D1-85
76	Harry Galbreath	G	6-1	275	28	6	Tennessee	UFA-93 (Mia)
77	Bill Maas	NT	6-5	282	31	10	Pittsburgh	UFA-93 (KC)
80	Jackie Harris	TE	6-4	243	25	4	Northeast Louisiana	D4-90
81	Anthony Morgan	WR	6-1	195	26	3	Tennessee	FA-93
83	Mark Clayton	WR	5-9	185	32	11	Louisville	UFA-93 (Mia)
84	Sterling Sharpe	WR	6-1	210	28	6	South Carolina	D1-88
85	Ron Lewis	WR	5-11	189	25	3	Florida State	FA-93
86	Ed West	TE	6-1	245	31	10	Auburn	FA-84
87	Robert Brooks	WR	6-0	174	22	2	South Carolina	D3-92
89	Mark Chmura	TE	6-5	242	24	1	Boston College	D6-92
90	Tony Bennett	LB	6-2	243	25	4	Mississippi	D1a-90
92	Reggie White	DE	6-5	290	31	9	Tennessee	UFA-93 (Phil)
95	Bryce Paup	LB	6-5	247	25	4	Northern Iowa	D6-90
97	Keith Traylor	LB	6-3	265	24	3	Central Oklahoma	FA-93
98	David Grant	NT	6-4	275	27	5	West Virginia	FA-93
99	Don Davey	DE	6-4	270	25	3	Wisconsin	FA-92 (D3a-91)

Injured Reserve (out for season):
James Milling, WR (post concussion syndrome); **Tom Neville** G/C (Achilles); **Brian Noble** LB, (knee); **James Campen**, C (hamstring); **Shawn Patterson** DE (knee)

Reserve/physically unable to perform:
Aug. 23: **Mark D'Onofrio**, LB (groin)

Reserve/Military (lost for season)
Aug. 23: **Bob Kuberski**, DL (Navy)

Practice squad:

17	Craig Hentrich	P/K	6-3	200	22	R	Notre Dame	FA-93
26	Lionell Crawford	WR	5-10	185	23	R	Wisconsin	FA-93
40	Jason McGill	WR	5-11	195	23	R	Georgia Tech	FA-93
69	Malcom Showell	DE	6-6	275	21	1	Delaware State	FA-93
65	Terry Beauford	G	6-2	280	25	2	Florida A & M	FA-93

Saints

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College	How Acquired
4	Steve Walsh	QB	6-3	204	26	5	Miami (Fla.)	Tr-90
6	Tommy Barnhardt	P	6-2	207	30	7	North Carolina	FA-89
7	Morten Andersen	K	6-2	221	33	12	Michigan St.	D4-82
16	Mike Buck	QB	6-3	227	26	4	Maine	D6a-90
18	Wade Wilson	QB	6-3	206	34	13	East Texas St.	UFA-93(Atl)
21	Dalton Hilliard	RB	5-8	204	29	8	LSU	D2-86
22	Brad Muster	FB	6-4	235	28	6	Stanford	UFA-93(Chi)
24	Derek Brown	RB	5-9	186	22	R	Nebraska	D4b-93
25	Fred McAfee	RB	5-10	195	25	3	Mississippi Col.	D6-91
26	Vince Buck	CB	6-0	198	25	4	Central St. (OH)	D2-90
27	Reginald Jones	CB	6-1	202	24	3	Memphis St.	D5-91
28	Gene Atkins	FS	6-1	200	29	7	Florida A&M	D7-87
29	Keith Taylor	S	5-11	206	28	5	Illinois	PB-92(Ind)
33	Tyrone Hughes	CB	5-9	175	23	R	Nebraska	D5-93
36	Derrick Ned	FB	6-1	210	24	1	Grambling St.	FA-92
37	Jimmy Spencer	CB	5-9	180	24	2	Florida	FA-92
38	Othello Henderson	S	6-0	192	21	R	UCLA	D7-93
41	Toi Cook	CB	5-11	188	28	7	Stanford	D8-87
43	Tyrone Legette	CB	5-9	177	23	2	Nebraska	D3-92
46	Sean Lumpkin	S	6-0	206	23	2	Minnesota	D4b-92
51	Sam Mills	LB	5-9	225	34	8	Montclair St.	FA-86
53	Vaughan Johnson	LB	6-3	240	31	8	North Carolina St.	D1Sup-84
55	Reggie Freeman	LB	6-1	233	23	R	Florida St.	D2-93
57	Rickey Jackson	LB	6-2	243	35	13	Pittsburgh	D2-81
60	Derek Kennard	G	6-3	300	31	8	Nevada-Reno	Tr-91
61	Joel Hilgenberg	C/G	6-3	252	31	10	Iowa	D4-84
62	Jay Hilgenberg	C/G	6-3	270	34	13	Iowa	FA-93
63	Karl Dunbar	DE	6-4	275	26	2	LSU	FA-92
68	Paul Jetton	C/G	6-4	288	28	6	Texas	FA-92
69	Les Miller	DE/NT	6-7	285	29	7	Ft. Hays St. (Kan.)	PB-91(SD)
70	Chris Port	G/T	6-5	290	26	3	Duke	D12-90
71	Richard Cooper	T	6-5	290	29	4	Tennessee	FA-89
72	Jim Dombrowski	G/T	6-5	298	30	8	Virginia	D1-86
73	Frank Warren	DE	6-4	290	34	12	Auburn	D3-81
77	William Roaf	T	6-4	299	34	R	Louisiana Tech	D1a-93
80	Marcus Dowdell	WR	5-10	179	23	1	Tennessee St.	D10-92
82	Irv Smith	TE	6-3	246	22	R	Notre Dame	D1b-93
83	Torrance Small	WR	6-3	201	23	2	Alcorn St.	D5-9
84	Eric Martin	WR	6-1	207	32	9	LSU	D7-85
85	Hoby Brenner	TE	6-5	245	34	13	USC	D3b-81
86	Patrick Newman	WR	5-11	189	25	4	Utah St.	FA-92
87	Frank Wainright	TE	6-3	245	26	3	N. Colorado	D8-91
88	Floyd Turner	WR	5-11	188	27	5	Northwestern La.	D6-89
89	Quinn Early	WR	6-0	190	28	6	Iowa	PB-91(SD)
90	James Williams	LB	6-0	230	25	4	Mississippi St.	D6b-90
91	Robert Goff	DE	6-3	270	28	6	Auburn	Tr-90
92	DeMond Winston	LB	6-2	239	25	4	Vanderbilt	D4-90
93	Wayne Martin	DE	6-5	275	28	5	Arkansas	D1-89
94	Jim Wilks	DE	6-5	275	35	13	San Diego St.	D12-81
95	Ronnie Dixon	NT	6-3	292	22	R	Cincinnati	D6-93
96	Jef Faulkner	DE	6-5	300	29	4	Southern	FA-93
97	Renaldo Turnbull	LB	6-4	250	27	4	West Virginia	D1-90
99	Joel Smeenge	LB	6-5	250	25	4	W. Michigan	D3-90

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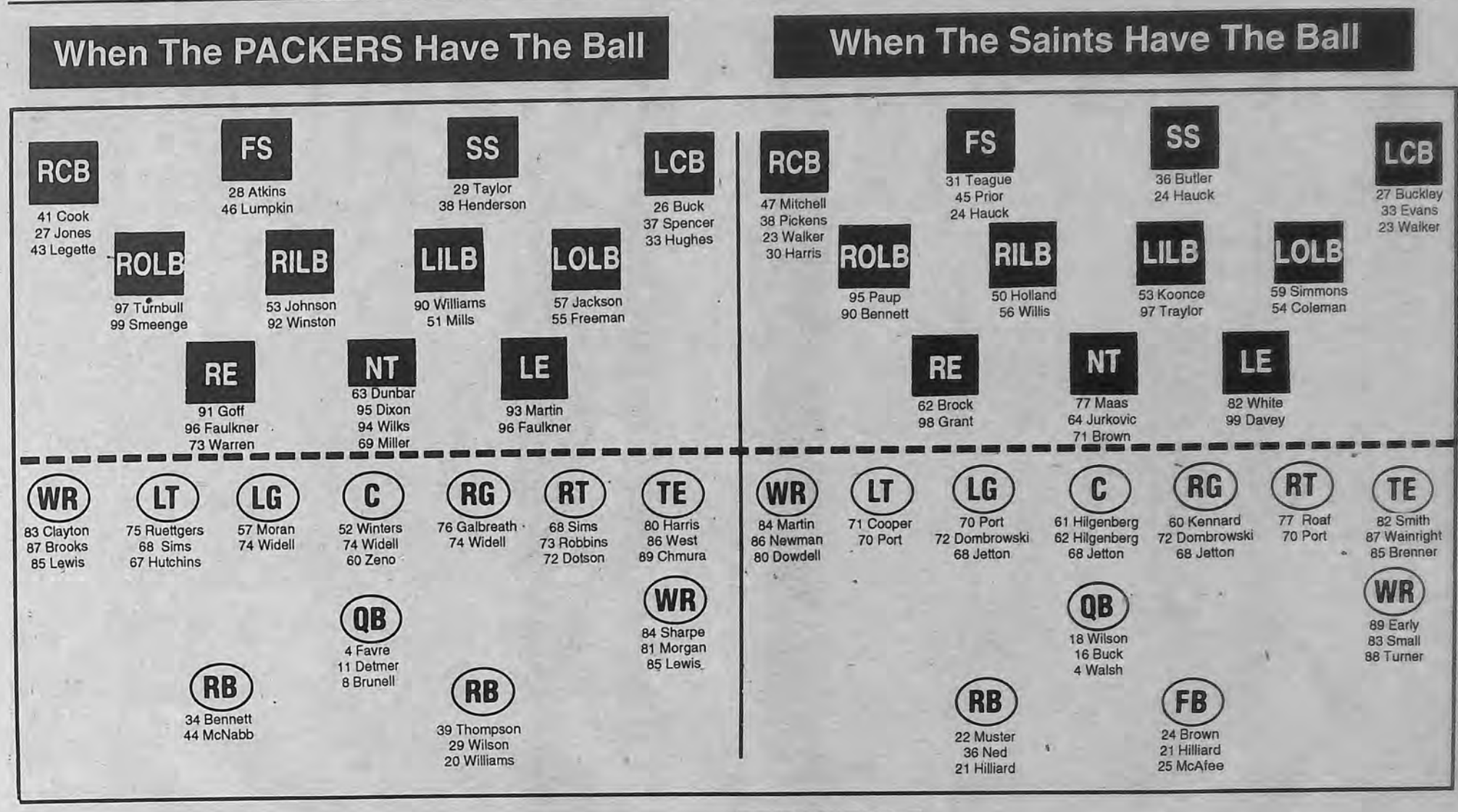

Restless Saint fans want more

NEXT WEEK'S OPPONENT

They want playoff win, plus 1 Sunday

Despite a 6-2 record, one gets the impression the tension surrounding the Saints and their fans can be cut with a knife.

Because of recent playoff failures the Saints, in the eyes of the public, will not be taken seriously until they register a post-season win.

Even after a 5-0 start, New Orleans skeptics immediately took an "I told you so" approach after consecutive losses to the Steelers and the lowly Falcons.

...and not even a come-from-behind win over the Cardinals prior to last week's bye could put the team or their fans in a comfort zone.

Thus, Green Bay will be facing a team with a cloud hanging over its head Sunday as the clubs enter the second half of the regular season against each other at the Superdome.

Since bye weeks affect some teams differently, it will be interesting to see what face the Saints will march in with against a Packer team coming off a Monday- night encounter in Kansas City.

Will Green Bay see a Saints' defense that allowed 80 points in its last three games or a machine that allowed only 74 points in the first five weeks?

Will the Packers see a New Orleans offense that tallied 134 points in its first five games or one that only scored 49 its past three?

Head Coach Jim Mora has to be thankful his club hasn't lost three straight games — which almost happened two weeks ago before a second half rally against Phoenix allowed it to erase a 10-point deficit and escape with a narrow triumph.

Mora claimed he didn't feel a sense of urgency against the Cardinals, but that is hard to believe. He at least had to feel a sense of relief that his club showed enough character to bounce back, ingredients it hasn't shown when the going got tough in recent years.

Green Bay holds a 11-4 advantage in the series dating back to 1968. Sunday's

JIM BURGESS

game is the first regular-season meeting between the teams since the Packers registered a thrilling come-from-behind 35-34 victory at Lambeau Field in the second game of the 1989 regular season.

Experience wins; more required

Based on experience, 13-year veteran Plan B free agent quarterback Wade Wilson, who spent most of his career with the Vikings, withstood a training-camp challenge from Steve Walsh and Mike Buck.

Wilson has been fairly steady despite the recent slump, completing 131 of 233 tosses for 1,569 yards and nine scores. He has had seven aerials pilfered.

New Orleans suffered a blow in the pre-season when second-year sensation Vaughan Dunbar busted up his knee against Green Bay.

Dunbar's misfortune opened the door for Nebraska rookie tailback Derek Brown, who leads the club with 463 yards on 123 carries. He is backed up by eight-year LSU vet Dalton Hilliard.

While former Bear Brad Muster opens at fullback, the Saints have gone to Fresno St. rookie Lorenzo Neal often and he has responded with 175 yards on 21 carries.

Wilson has a pair of solid receivers to throw to in Eric Martin and Quinn Early. Martin has 29 receptions for 460 yards and one score while Early has 27 for 413 yards and five TDs. Second-year man Torrance Small has been a valuable backup.

Notre Dame tight end Irv Smith, the team's second first-round draft choice, is used almost exclusively as a blocker.

From left to right, the line of Richard Cooper, Chris Port, Joel Hilgenberg, Derek Kinnard, and top draft choice Willie Roaf excel at protecting Wilson.

Everyone talks about linebackers

Last year all four Saint linebackers went to the Pro Bowl, but Pat Swilling was traded to Detroit in the off-season and Sam Mills is out with a knee injury.

Still, New Orleans is more-than-adequate with Renaldo Turnbull replacing Swilling at right outside linebacker to the tune of a league-leading 11 sacks.

Flanking Turnbull is veteran Rickey Jackson who has added six quarterback drops. Inside, Vaughan Johnson has three sacks with James Williams spelling Mills.

Up front the Saints have some problems with right defensive end Frank Warren out a month with a severely sprained right foot. Currently, Robert Goff has moved from the nose to spell him with Cincinnati rookie Ronnie Dixon and 13-year vet Jim Wilks vying for more playing time in the middle.

Left defensive end Wayne Martin has only two sacks, far from the form that saw him record 15.5 last season.

Corners Toi Cook and Vince Buck survive on smarts and aggressiveness respectively while Keith Taylor and Gene Atkins are a pair of hard-hitting safeties. The group has intercepted only five passes.

Anderson 16 of 20 this year

Morten Andersen, one of the NFL's all-time great placekickers, has connected on 16-of-20 three-pointers with a long of 49 yards. However, he is very capable of dialing even longer distances. Punter Tommy Barnhardt carries better than a 43-yard average on 39 boots.

Nebraska rookie Tyrone Hughes is the NFL's second-ranked punt returner with a 15-yard average while kickoff returner Fred McAfee is seventh with a 21.5 average.

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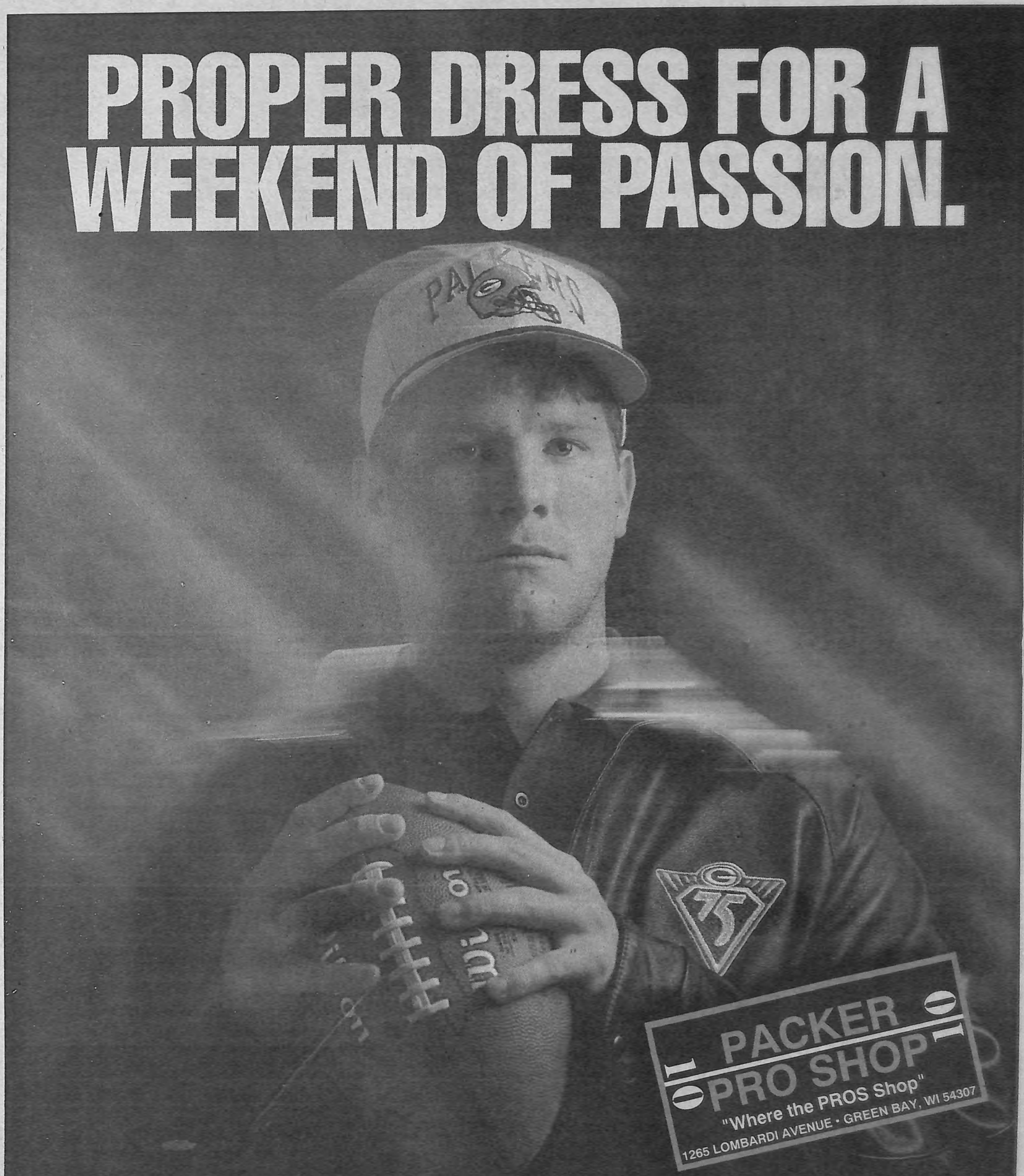

Don't take anything for granted. Visit the Packer Pro Shop for the attire that contributes so much to the mood. After all, the clothes make the fan.

CENTRAL ISSUES

Playoffs a long shot for Bears

by John Delcos

Chicago Bears

FIRST HALF OVERVIEW: At halftime of coach Dave Wannstedt's first season, the Bears find themselves having a long shot at a wild card, which is the best he could have hoped. ... The Bears are 1-3 in the division, which certainly doesn't help. ... The offense remains erratic. ... Defensively, Wannstedt's attack-style philosophy has worked. Excluding the opener, the Bears haven't allowed more than 20 points in any game, and the 26-20 loss to the New York Giants that day was because of a blown coverage at the end of the game. ... Prior to the Raider game, the Bears were 3-0 when they won the turnover ratio, which isn't a surprising result, but an indication of the defensive improvement.

INJURIES: CB Anthony Blaylock (finger), TE Chris Gedney (heel), WR Curtis Conway (shoulder), DT Tim Ryan (neck).

SCOUTING REPORT: At San Diego. The Chargers are scoring less than 17 points a game, which has to take some of the pressure off the Bears' offense -- they know it won't be a shootout. ... The Chargers want to establish RB Marion Butts, mainly because they have few other options. ... WR Anthony Miller is a game-breaker, but how much time will the line give QB John Friesz?

SCHEDULE: NY Giants (L, 26-20), at Minnesota (L, 10-7), Tampa Bay (W, 47-17), Atlanta (W, 6-0), at Philadelphia (W, 17-6), Minnesota (Mon, L, 19-12), at Green Bay (L, 17-3), LA Raiders, at San Diego, at Kansas City, at Detroit (Thanks), Green Bay, at Tampa Bay, Denver (Sat), Detroit, at LA Rams.

Detroit Lions

FIRST HALF OVERVIEW: The Lions have a fraudulent 6-2 record at the midway point of the season. None of their victories are against teams with a winning record, and the combined record of the teams they have beaten is a dreadful 15-32. ... Detroit's creampuff first-half schedule hides coach Wayne Fontes' indecision regarding his quarterbacks. ... Neither Rodney Peete nor Andre Ware have been the answer. Guaranteed, things will be a lot worse in the second half when the opponents are the Vikings, Packers and 49ers.

INJURIES: S Bennie Blades (ankle), WR Mel Gray (ankle), WR Herman Moore (ankle), LB Dennis Gibson (back), LB Tracy Hayworth (hamstring), CB Tim McKyer (concussion), CB Kevin Scott (ankle), LB Pat Swilling (ankle).

SCOUTING REPORT: At Green Bay (Nov. 21). The Lions have a bye this week, then go to Milwaukee to play the Packers, a team they don't want to face, especially on the road. ... Packers DE Reggie White -- as is the rest of the defense -- is on an aggressive roll, which can't help Peete. ... Everybody expects the Lions to attempt to establish RB Barry Sanders first to take pressure off Peete. However, an option worth exploring, is for the Lions to set up Sanders by opening with a short passing game.

SCHEDULE: Atlanta (W, 30-13), at New England (W, 19-16 OT), at New Orleans (L, 14-3), Phoenix (W, 26-20), at Tampa Bay (L, 27-10), Seattle (W, 30-10), at LA Rams (W, 16-13), at Minnesota (W, 30-27), Tampa Bay, Green Bay (at Mil), Chicago (Thanks), Minnesota, at Phoenix, San Francisco, at Chicago, Green Bay.

Minnesota Vikings

FIRST HALF OVERVIEW: It took half a season, but QB Jim McMahon is finally breaking down. He sustained a separated shoulder in the Detroit loss -- a game lost because of a pass interference call -- and wasn't expected to play against San Diego. ... First-round RB Robert Smith is becoming a factor. ... At one-time, Cris and Anthony Carter were as explosive a tandem as there was in the league. No more. ... This team is being held together by its defense, and there aren't any indications things are going to change.

INJURIES: McMahon (concussion/shoulder), LB Ed McDaniel (shoulder), DT Esera Tuaolo (hamstring), RB Robert Smith (chicken pox).

SCOUTING REPORT: At Denver. The Broncos have finally opened up the passing game for QB John Elway, and Denver is ranked second in the air. However, they are 22nd on the ground. ... Denver is averaging 25 points a game, 10.7 more than last year at this time. ... The problem, surprisingly, is they have the NFL's 24th-ranked defense.

SCHEDULE: at LA Raiders (L, 24-7), Chicago (W, 10-7), Green Bay (W, 15-13), at San Francisco (L, 38-19), Tampa Bay, at Chicago (Mon, W, 19-12), Detroit (L, 30-27), San Diego, at Denver, at Tampa Bay, New Orleans, at Detroit, Dallas, Green Bay (at Mil), Kansas City, at Washington.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

FIRST HALF OVERVIEW: The Bucs' 2-5 first-half record isn't surprising. Nobody expected much better, especially with rookie QB Craig Erickson. When Steve DeBerg was released last week, it indicated no turning back for the Bucs with Erickson, which was the right move. Erickson-to-WR Horace Copeland is showing signs of becoming a productive combination. ... RB Reggie Cobb is down with a knee injury. ... The Bucs are 27th offensively, and 26th defensively, which means a long winter.

INJURIES: Cobb (knee), RB Anthony McDowell (ankle), G Bruce Reimers (ankle), CB Darren Anderson (leg), G Scott Dill (ankle), LB Demetrius DuBose (shoulder).

SCOUTING REPORT: San Francisco. Try not to get anybody hurt.

SCHEDULE: Kansas City (L, 27-3), at NY Giants (L, 27-7), at Chicago (L, 47-17), Detroit (W, 27-10), at Minnesota (L, 15-0), Green Bay (L, 37-14), at Atlanta (W, 31-24), at Detroit, San Francisco, Minnesota, at Green Bay, Washington, Chicago, at LA Raiders, at Denver, San Diego.

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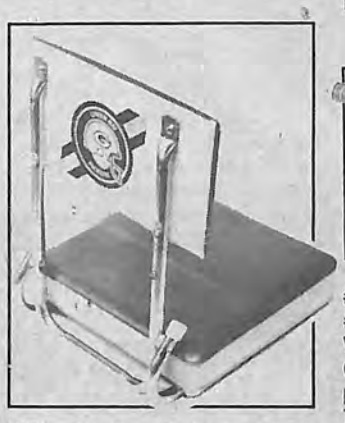

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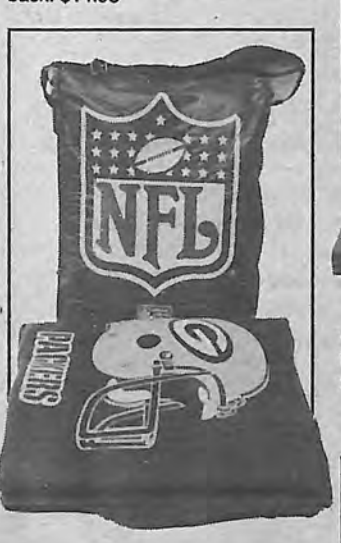

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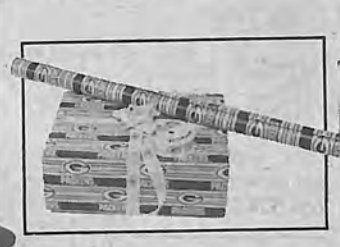

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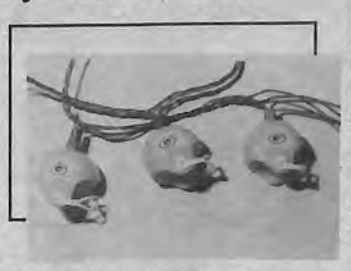

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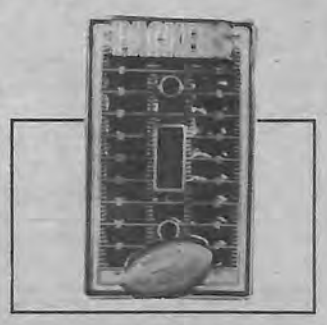

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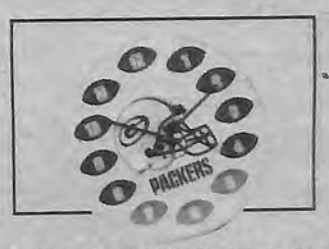

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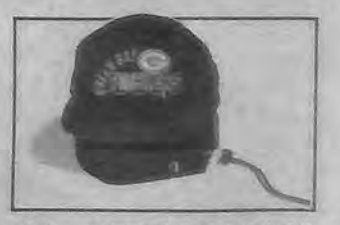

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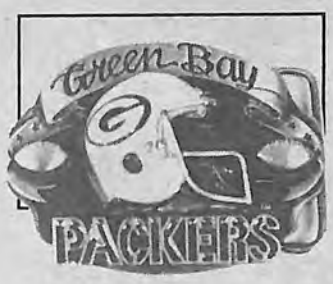

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#69P — Key Ring. Pewter helmet display detailed in high gloss enamel or 69PA. $6.95

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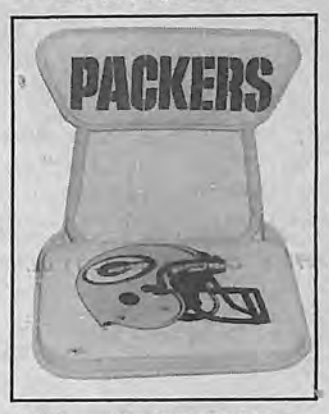

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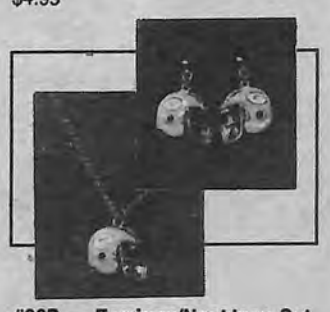

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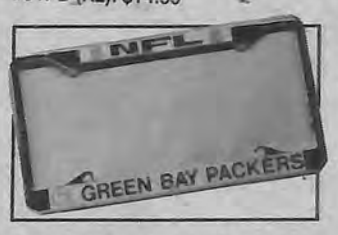

#92P — License Plate Frame. Team colors, chrome (metal). $6.95

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OUR READERS ALWAYS WRITE

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Workman looks pretty good

Dear Al, Ray and all at Packer Report,

So the Dickerson thing ends in nothing. Probably just as well...It was a typical Raiders-type move by Ron Wolf, taking a player past his best but still with talent; but in this case it smacked to me of desperation.

Dickerson had been awesome at the Rams, but disappointing at Indy and the Raiders, while I wouldn't have thought his style was suited to a run-and-shoot offense at Atlanta. Stephens played five pre-season games and five regular-season games, and that was it. Disappointing for the fourth-round pick we gave up for him.

It all makes me miss Vince Workman even more: But for injury he would have had a 1,000-yard season, yet in the PR preview, he was listed as third in the TB depth chart at RB - that particular move seems to have been to the detriment of both Pookie and the Pack. I feel a Workman/Bennett backfield would really help us now, providing great mobility and receiving talent in the backfield.

As it is, I gather a Bennett/McNabb pairing may be upcoming. Two second-year players... that would have potential, but would put pressure on the offense as a whole.

Finally, a minor grumble: This season PR has been arriving a lot later than last season, as late as Tuesday, whereas last year it regularly arrived on the Thursday. Miles Warner tells me he has a similar experience. I know you've been trying to improve delivery within the US, is it possible it's affected airmail subscriptions? It may be something in this country, but any ideas you may have would be appreciated...

And even bigger grumble: Rumours about colour changes. (Forgive British spelling!) Put simply, I would prefer to see no changes. Currently, the Packers are unique in the NFL in playing in dark green.

Overall, I feel any change would only be a cynical marketing ploy to sell more merchandise. In this country, soccer team change their uniforms every two years for this reason, and people don't like it.

Finally: I don't really think I should have to be giving reasons "Why the Packers should not change their colours." What I would like to see is an explanation "Why the Packers should change their colours." I can think of no reason at all. Can you ?

Best Regards,
Tim Whitcombe
Great Britain via internet

PS Thanks for making the PR hotline available in this country! But what happened to Coaches Corner ?

A big part of the reason we no longer do Coaches Corner is that with increased computerization, I'm in the office more — as opposed to at Packer headquarters.

— Ed.

That's former Packer Willie Wood, second from the left, among the 10 Pro Football Hall of Fame members participating in an enshrinees' honorary ground breaking for the $8 million expansion project, largest ever for the Hall of Fame in Canton. Others in the photo include (from left) Chuck Bednarik, Wood, Charley Trippi, Pete Pihos, Red Badgro (the oldest living Hall of Fame member, age 90) Otto Graham, Bobby Mitchell, Steve Van Buren, Bill Dudley and John Henry Johnson.

Looking for Packer signals

Dear Packer Report, Fans, and Players

We've had a recent scare here in Rochester, MN. In previous years, the cable company would cut into La Crosse TV for the Packer games and all was well. This year we were told that may change because of the new FCC rulings. I ran out and installed a TV antenna to pick up La Crosse direct, however, not all fans may want to do that.

Therefore, I'm happy to say that McMurphys Sports Bar in Rochester is planning on playing all of the games. (We watched the Packer/ Patriots game there.) Now, if only we could get a radio station to carry the Packer Radio Network . . . we'd almost be in heaven.

Go Packers!
Bob Crowley
Rochester, MN (Ashland, WI native)

To get to heaven, take 52 south. to 136 in Iowa. That'll get you pretty close to Dyersville.

— Ed.

Big Buckley fan

Dear Packer Report readers,

Most people tend to shy away from Buckley because he talks a lot, has a high opinion of himself, and to date has not widely shown he is worthy of his first-round acquisition.

I have been a Terrell Buckley fan since I saw him dazzle while at Florida St. I was pleased he was taken by the Packers, and I believe his less-than-stellar season last year was due to getting to camp late. Twenty to 25 interceptions may be a little unrealistic this season, but I admire Buckley for setting such high goals. Would you rather have someone who would be satisfied with two interceptions a year? I also expect Buckley will become one of the most dangerous return men in the NFL.

Even the great Deion Sanders was stripped of the ball many times, Buckley made rookie mistakes, after all he was a rookie. I have faith Mr. Buckley, and to him I say this — Keep up the hard work Buck, there are a lot of people who believe in you and I for one will be a fan of yours for a long time!

Lifetime member of the Terrell Buckley fan club,
Jerry McKune
Fresno, CA

All predictions inflated

Dear Ray,

As I write, our Pack has just been demolished by the Cowgirls from Dallas for the third loss this year. Every Packer fan has to be wondering, 'What's wrong with this team?' I have a few explanations which may be right or wrong.

First of all, the expectations during the off and pre-seasons were way beyond the playing and coaching talent the Packers had. All the media hype and predictions (including my own) were woefully inflated.

Second, the two heartbreaking last second losses to Philadelphia/Minnesota have essentially taken all the heart and spirit out of this club. This was evidenced with the fiasco and terrible secondary and overall offensive performance in Dallas.

The Packers are on the ropes right now and it's doubtful whether their confidence, spirit, and morale will return. The injuries to Brian Noble, Corey Harris, Moran, and the inability to sign Bennett all serve as the final nail in 93's coffin. While we have a better product on the field, it's just not performing to expectations, and the hot-dogging loud-mouth T. Buckley has already lost us the Minnesota game this year with his failed coverage.

Sincerely,
Ron Paque,
San Antonio, TX

In eight years, I don't recall previously seeing an admission of the possibility of fallibility.

I must differ on the loss of heart and soul. To wit: First half performance against Denver.

— Ed.

Chicago's sold out

Dear Packer Report,

There are no, none, zero, count 'em Packer jackets, sweats, shirts or caps available in the heart of declawed and toothless Bear country as of Oct. 15. The fair weather fans are out of the closet.

Peter J. Banahoski
Aurora, IL

Pahl

Continued from page 5

Chris Jacke's three field goals gave him 100 in his five-year career, making him eligible to be included on the career accuracy list. Jacke ranks fourth on the all-time NFL list. He has made 15 of 16 attempts this year.

Chiefs' kicker Nick Lowery made his 400th attempt and ranks first on the list, having made 320 for 80 percent accuracy. Lowery played his 204th NFL game, breaking the Chiefs' record.

Dan Saleaumua has 15 career fumble recoveries, tying him for most in Chiefs' history with Bobby Bell, Willie Lanier and Deron Cherry.

Kevin Ross, a 10-year veteran, made his first start at safety in Kansas City's revamped secondary and intercepted Brett Favre's third pass. It was the 29th career interception for Ross, who moved over from cornerback.

Chiefs win 17 of last 19 at home

Todd McNair's 47-yard run was his longest of his career, the longest by the Chiefs this year, and the longest given up by the Packers this season.

Kansas City has won 17 of the last 19 games at Arrowhead Stadium, and is 7-1 against NFC teams at home since 1989.

Green Bay nose tackle Bill Maas did not start for a fourth consecutive week because of an injured Achilles tendon, but did play.

The Chiefs put safety David Whitmore on injured reserve on Saturday with a knee injury.

Chiefs' running back Harvey Williams, who suffered a concussion last week at Miami, watched the game in street clothes.

Green Bay wide receiver Sterling Sharpe sprained his ankle late in the game, but the injury was not believed serious. The Packers did not suffer any other injuries.

Injured for the Chiefs were wide receiver Ron Dickerson (toe sprain), safety Doug Terry (knee sprain), tight end Keith Cash (groin strain) and running back Kimble Anders (ankle sprain).

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WANTED: Relocated die-hard needs place to watch GBP games in the Detroit area. Willing to travel, if not too far. Phone Jamie Moczynski (313) 331-7906.

WANTED: Place to watch GBP games in NW Houston or Houston area. Phone Michael Wiginton (713) 681-4696.

WANTED: VHS tape of last GBP-Colt game played in Baltimore: 20-20 tie, Dec. 19, 1982. Phone Jim (404) 368-9954.

WANTED: Person in or near Dyersville to pick up some more Field of Dreams merchandise for my four-year-old daughter. I'll pay all costs, including shipping and provide an interesting Packer item for your trouble. Al Pahl (414) 465-6961.

Quotable Quote

Coach **Mike Holmgren** on **Johnny Holland**: "Johnny means a lot to me personally and to the team. He's a good player and just a great human being. It's just a great thing that he could come back after a serious injury and still play. It's something he wants to do. He was never forced. It was totally his call. And he wants to be playing football and he worked very hard to put himself on that field. That's exciting to me. If you had a team full of Johnny Hollands, you wouldn't worry very much as a coach."

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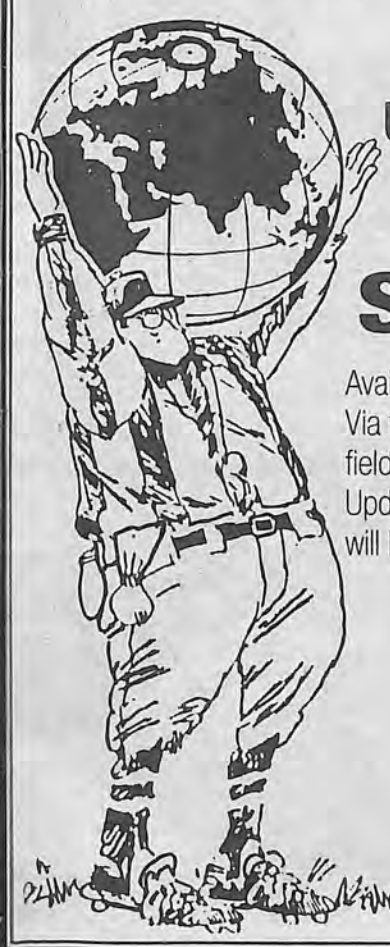

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Family Spotlight

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Lillian Faith Holland

Wife of veteran linebacker Johnny Holland

Born - Aug. 2, 1964. Los Angeles, Calif.

College - Texas Tech. Nursing degree.

Family - Husband Johnny

The last book I read was - "Waiting to Exhale" by Terry McMillan

A movie I'd recommend to my friends is - "The Fugitive."

My favorite hobbies are - Playing the piano, singing, listening to music.

My occupation is - Registered nurse.

The things I like best about nursing are - Helping those in need.

The things I like about football are - Excitement of the games, traveling to different cities.

The things I like best to do with my family are - Big dinners, playing cards and dominoes, prayer time together.

I would describe my husband as - Humble, and very dedicated to being the best athlete he can be.

I would describe myself as - Self-disciplined. Very conserved about others' feelings and well-being, especially children, elderly and the disadvantaged.

My favorite piece of advice to give people is - Acknowledge the Lord first in all you do and He will direct your paths.

The most influential people in my life are - My parents and my husband. They are all dedicated and hard workers toward their goals. My husband especially, because of his love for Christ and concern for other people.

My greatest personal accomplishment - Graduating from college with honors.

If I could live in another time, it would be - During the time when Christ walked and taught here on earth. I would want to experience His wisdom and miracles as the apostles did.

Who is/was the world's greatest leader and why - Martin Luther King Jr. Because he led the life he talked about and taught about. It takes a strong faith in God to show love to your enemies when they are abusive to you. Man's natural instinct is to return violence with violence. He showed great self-discipline to use non-violent tactics and to have patience and perseverence.

Faith Holland must cringe just a little bit these days when husband Johnny gets caught up in those large piles of humanity while making tackles. Faith, a registered nurse, helped him rehabilitate this past off-season from December's cervical fusion surgery, but was unable to provide *Packer Report* with a photo of herself before our printing deadline.

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Building on to what most people feel is the richest tradition in pro sports is no easy task, the Green Bay Packers are synonymous with football history. Not wanting to rest on the laurels of past teams, this year's group of men are dedicated to carrying out their own piece of football history and reinforcing team pride. No player better exemplifies this feeling than Brian Noble. A leader for ten years now, through good times and bad, Brian has always held his head high with "Packer Pride."

Cindy Erkfitz-Sirls has captured this feeling in her portrait of Green Bay's consumate "blue collar" linebacker. A limited edition series of 959 collector's prints has been produced of the painting. Each print is individually autographed by Brian, signed and numbered by the artist and are available at a cost of $260.00 each (price includes shipping and handling).

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The I has it

Thompson runs with move to the ol' college formation

by Al Pahl
Managing Editor

The I formation was good to Darrell Thompson at the University of Minnesota.

And it's been good to him in Green Bay recently.

Thompson has become the feature back, carrying for 105 yards (his career best) at Tampa and for 68 against Chicago. He averaged 5.0 and 4.8 per carry, respectively.

The Packers were averaging 3.1 yards per carry through the season's first five games. In Games Six and Seven, they averaged 4.9. Green Bay ran for 162 yards at Tampa and for 135 against Chicago.

The featured running formation — but not the only one — has become the I.

A straight I and a modified I where the halfback is directly behind the quarterback but the fullback is offset, have always been in Coach Mike Holmgren's bag of tricks. But they just haven't been used much because Holmgren prefers split backs.

More time to make choices

What actually changes in the I, as opposed to split?

Thompson "gets the ball deeper," Holmgren explained. "He has more time to make decisions. Then he gets momentum up so his shoulders are square to the line instead of his shoulders being perpendicular to the line. He's a north-and-south runner anyway, in my opinion. He's best when he can just ram it up in there. And if there's a crease, an arm tackle is not going to tackle him. Whereas if he is running laterally and making a move, he can do that, but I think he's very good at the other."

Offensive Coordinator Sherman Lewis explained: "You have a longer time to read the hole. You are deeper in the backfield, you get the ball sooner and you have more time to make a decision."

But doesn't it take the runner longer to get to the hole? "Naturally — you line up seven yards (deep) instead of five," Lewis replied. "It takes you longer but you've got more time to read it and make a decision, too. There are advantages and disadvantages.

"It's going to take him longer but he's got more options. There are checks and balances."

Blocker takes his man where he wants to go

Surprisingly, that increased time does not mean he's asking the linemen to hold their blocks longer. "Nope," Lewis said. "All we're asking them is to take their man whichever way he wants to go. The back has options and he's got to run to daylight.

"It's easy for the offensive linemen because it's the back's job to find the hole. They just take him whatever way he wants to go."

Increased time for Thompson is also not a concern for his lead blocker, fullback Edgar Bennett. "I don't really think about it like that." he explained. "I look at it like everybody's got a job to do. Everybody eventually has to get on their guy, no matter if we are in split back or whatever. Everybody has to get on their guy, that's what it boils down to. Execution, basically."

The Packers used more I formations and modified I formations against the Bears and Bucs. The primary beneficiary of that change was halfback Darrell Thompson, who ran out of the I at the University of Minnesota.
-- James V. Biever photo

Bennett sees the advantage to the I as: "Darrell is comfortable running out of the I. He's been doing it ever since college. I think it helps him."

And then you trap 'em

Holmgren allowed that starting Thompson deeper might give the defense more reaction time. "You could say that," Holmgren noted. "Except that there is another guy in the backfield, Edgar Bennett. Against the Bears as an example, in the last drive we ran Darrell outside (twice in a row) and then they thought, I think, that they were going to penetrate and make something happen and then we trapped. We trapped Chris Zorich. A little quick trap and we got about 10 yards.

"So there's ways; that's coaching. That's the chess game. There's ways to take advantage. If they over-commit and try to penetrate too much, you try to counter that."

As for the advantage to the previously preferred split backs, "It's easier to get the backs out into the passing game," Lewis explained. "They get out into their routes quicker. You can get them outside. They are closer to the perimeter and to the line of scrimmage."

Bennett, Robbins go with it

The increased emphasis on I and modified I formations has not had a big impact on Bennett. "Not really," he said. "Just changed the angle I take to get to the linebacker. That's about all."

Up on the line, veteran Tootie Robbins admitted, "I really don't even worry about what formation we are in. I should, but I look at the guy in front of me: He's there to make plays, to win the game, to do whatever it takes for his team to win. Well, I have to do the same thing: I have to prepare myself according to the person I'm playing and the scheme they are running. I just go out and try to execute the game plan, use good technique and work hard."

Which is what Robbins sees Thompson and the other nine doing: "Darrell is running real hard. When you got a guy like that running that hard, you can't help but go out and get the job done," the former Cardinal said. "Right now, I think we have a great feel for one another and we're having fun doing what we're doing. I think that's the key: We are all having fun.

"Everybody is beginning to feel good about what we're doing out there. When you have a group of guys who believe in one another, feel comfortable with one another, who like one another, who are very good friends, you just go out and you just bust your chops for those guys. Right now, that's what we want to do. We want to just go out and win and play hard and let the chips fall where they may.

"We've got some great guys and I just want to be part of winning and the tradition around here," Robbins said. "Right now we're having fun and I'm having a blast. I'm just having a blast out there. It shows on film when you're having fun and the last couple of games, you can look at our overall team and see we're having fun out there."

It's no secret both fun and winning are contagious.

Bennett hits the film room

Interviewed last week, fullback Edgar Bennett knew that no matter the formation, there would be times he'd be called on to help block Chiefs' speed rusher Derrick Thomas.

Bennett said he was preparing for that assignment "the same way I prepare for the rest of 'em: I got a job to do. He's got a job to do. Hey — somebody's job isn't going to get done the way he wants it to. I just look at it like I have a job to do: I just go out and get the guy."

The second-year player did say that Thomas caused him to spend more time in film preparation. "Probably," Bennett admitted. "I probably won't get but one chance to play him this year. So I'll probably spend a little more time looking at him this week than if I was playing against Detroit or somebody."

Film study is important against such an athlete. "Yeah, definitely," Bennett said. "Definitely. You've got to go at it with the proper angles. You got to watch him, see what he likes to do. Try to take those things away from him."

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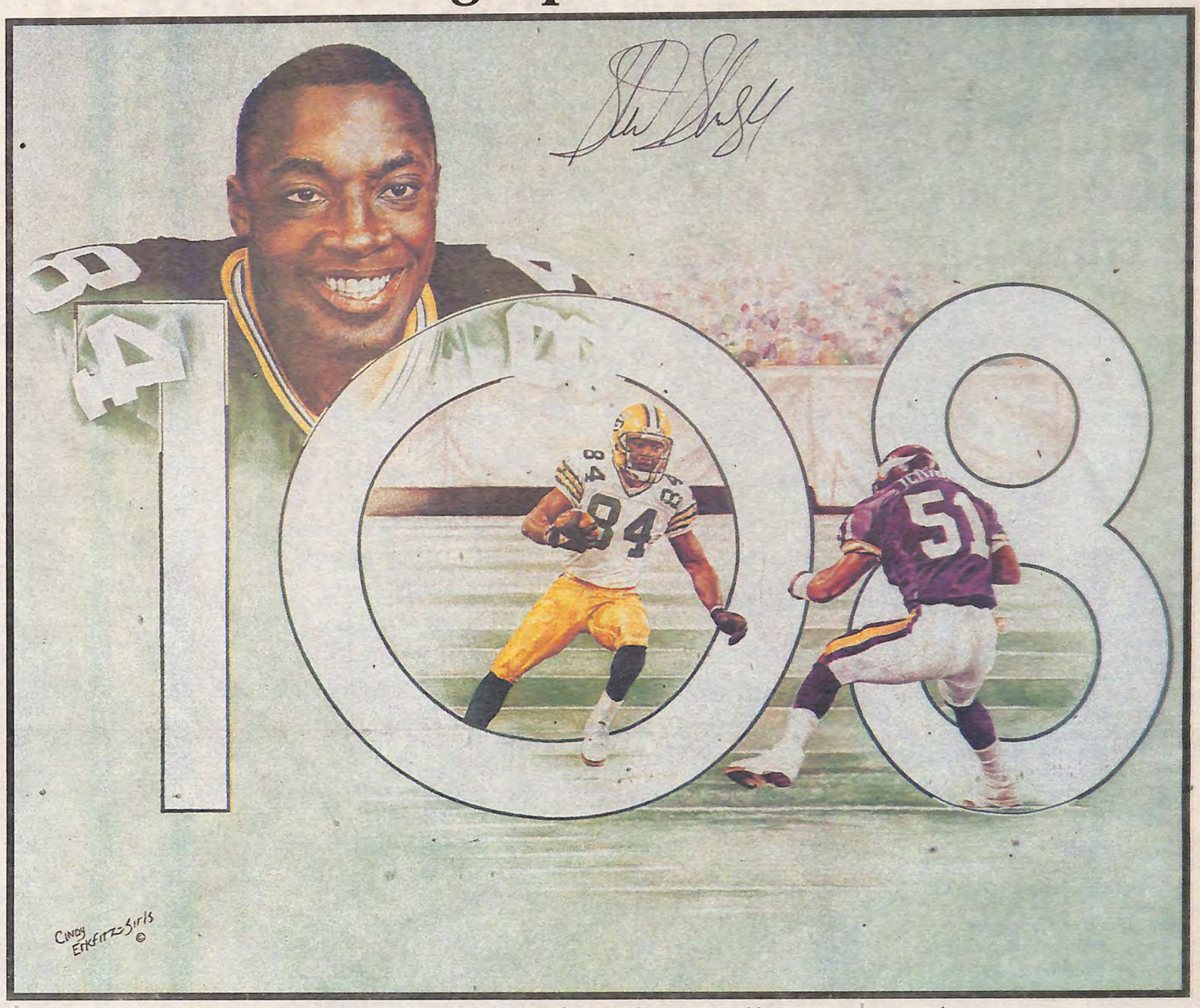

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO: Barty Smith

Former RB remains in the running

by Jerry Poling

When fullback Barty Smith retired from pro football in 1980, he couldn't run effectively anymore with his battered, surgically repaired knees.

So guess what Smith's favorite form of recreation is these days?

Would you believe running?

"With a list of knee troubles, that would surprise a lot of people," says Smith.

No kidding.

Despite five knee operations that hampered the Packers' 1974 first-round draft pick throughout his seven-year career, Smith puts on his running shoes almost daily now.

"I rarely miss a day. I run 30 to 40 miles a week. My shortest run any day is five miles. I often do a long run on the weekends," Smith says.

Now a vice-president of a beer distributorship in his hometown of Richmond, Va., Smith, 41, has run three Richmond Marathons, the most recent in 1991. A few weeks ago he ran the Richmond half-marathon.

His best marathon time is 3 hours, 45 minutes.

"Not bad for a guy 225 pounds with five knee operations," Smith says with a laugh, adding that his goal is to break 3:30. "I don't have any trouble running straight ahead. Only when I try to make lateral movements do my knees give me trouble."

Running back Barty Smith is No. 15 on the Packers' all-time rushing list, with 1,942 yards during seven seasons. He rushed for a career-high 567 yards in 1978 and did much of the lead blocking for Terdell Middleton when the latter became only the fourth Packer ever -- and the last one -- to run for more than 1,000 yards.

Cut down in college all-star tilt

Smith enjoys running to stay active athletically but mostly for the health benefits. He is health conscious, watching his weight and often haranguing some of his overweight colleagues about their "horrendous" condition.

"It's very important to take care of yourself. I could drop dead tomorrow, but not from something I did or didn't do," Smith says.

When the Packers' drafted the 6-foot-4, 235-pounder out of Richmond University, he was expected to do many things, including take the place of star fullback John Brockington, whose production had begun to slip.

But Smith never got the chance to show Packer fans his real abilities. In the Coaches' All-America game prior to the Packer training camp that summer, Smith tore up a knee in the second half.

"I had about 90 yards in the first half. I was looking forward to training camp. In the second half I just got wiped out," Smith recalls. "I even remember the name of the guy who hit me — Ozell Collier of the University of Colorado. It was a clean hit. He caught me when I was crossing one leg over the other going down the field. He cut my legs out.

"It's the old saying. I should have zigged instead of zagged," Smith says.

Smith remembers that shortly after he was taken from the field, Packer director of scouting, Bill Tobin, was at his side. Within an hour, they were on a plane to Green Bay, where Smith was operated on the next day.

Leg heals, confidence doesn't

Although Smith did return to action late in his rookie season and was fully recovered heading into 1975, he doesn't think he ever returned to his collegiate form.

"I never was the same after that first operation. I was foolish to believe — you read it in all the medical journals — that you come back stronger than ever after the surgery. I was a little naive. I never had my confidence after that," Smith says.

Smith admits that he "played fairly well" in the mid-1970s during Bart Starr's first seasons as coach.

"I never looked at (the knee injury) as an excuse. I never feared injury, but I was so limited as far as my capabilities. I didn't have the mobility. I was more of a straight-ahead runner than I was before," he says.

Despite his limitations, Smith had a Packer career he can be proud of.

He was the standout offensive player on the Packers' 4-10 team in 1977, despite coming off knee surgery halfway through the 1976 season. He led them in rushing and receiving. He ran for 554 yards (3.3 average) and caught 37 passes for 340 yards (9.2 average).

Smith's strong play enabled the Packers to release Brockington in 1977.

However, Smith's best year may have been in 1978. That year, rookie James Lofton led the Packers in receiving with 46 catches, but Smith wasn't far behind with another 37.

In addition, Smith rushed for a career-high 567 yards in 1978 and did much of the lead blocking as Terdell Middleton became only the fourth Packer ever to rush for more than 1,000 yards (Tony Canadeo did it once, Jim Taylor five times and Brockington, three times). No Packer has rushed for 1,000 since.

Smith was off to a good start in 1979 when he suffered another knee injury and missed the final 10 games.

In 1980, he suffered his fifth knee injury and underwent his fifth surgery. His only carry of the season came in the final game, for three yards against Detroit.

It turned out to be the last carry of his career. His decision to retire was made for him by his knees.

"I had no lateral movement anymore without severe complications," he says.

Continued on next page

Poling

Continued from last page

With 1,942 career rushing yards, Smith ranks 15th all-time in Packer rushing, about 100 yards behind No. 13, Middleton.

With 120 career receptions, Smith ranks in the top 40.

In all-time scoring, Smith ranks 33rd with 126 points on 21 touchdowns.

Catches Hadl's 200th TD toss

When he retired, Smith was the 12th ranking rusher and 14th ranking receiver in team history, despite playing only three full seasons, and half, or less, of three other seasons.

Aside from being the player who replaced Brockington in the lineup, Smith says his claim to fame is catching John Hadl's 200th career touchdown pass.

He thinks Packer fans were aware of his knee problems and treated him fairly. He knows that in tougher NFL towns first-round draft picks are castigated by fans if they don't become all-pros. "I was never treated anything but great. The fans knew as the surgeries mounted that I was still trying as best I could. The reception they gave the players was phenomenal," Smith says.

After retiring, Smith, who is married but doesn't have children, went straight back to Richmond, where he was a multi-sport high-school star and college standout. He was the Virginia prep player of the year in 1969.

"When that final gun sounded my bags were packed and I was headed south. I've never found another place I'd rather live," Smith says.

He got a job working in sales with Loveland Distributing Co., which handles Miller Brewing products. He worked his way up the ladder to vice president (in charge of sales) about four years ago.

"It's a fun business, the kind where you wake up in the morning and don't mind going to work."

Loveland has about 1,400 accounts and does about $30 million a year in sales, Smith says, adding that it is one of the few markets where Miller exceeds industry leader Anheuser-Busch in market share.

Smith enjoys work because of the importance of personal contacts he makes. "A lot of personal relationships pay huge dividends. We work Monday to Friday, but we're in the beer business seven days a week," he says.

Smith has had very little contact with the game of football or his football friends in recent years. He has been to just one Richmond game since graduating, despite living in town, and hasn't followed pro football closely either, he says.

However, he got into an office fantasy football league this year and has caught a few Packer games on television. He's happy to see the enthusiasm over the Packers this season.

The people of Green Bay are "the most football-oriented, football-driven people I've ever seen in my life," Smith lauded.

Effective advice for seeking autographs

by Chris Armold

When people started collecting autographs the purpose was simple; the autograph showed a "celebrity" was met and the signature was a tangible reminder, very special, to be kept and treasured.

Sports-autograph collecting has hit the big time, in a big way. Autographs of certain sports figures command some very serious money and, unfortunately, some unsavory characters try very hard to take advantage of this. This is unfortunate since the true fans could eventually pay a very high price: Inaccessibility of our favorite teams and players. For the ordinary fan, nothing tops meeting your favorite player and it is natural for people to ask for an autograph, but certain "unwritten rules" can make the exchange more positive for both the fan *and* the athlete. Athletes really *are* people, too.

This item is directed at the true fan, the person who wants a momento of that special time you met a player or staff member. Here are some simple but very effective guidelines to keep in mind:

1. Keep it in perspective. Remember, just because you support the team, the people on it are not your property and you have no real right to expect anything personal from them.

2. Be polite, say please and thank you.

3. Don't use first names, use Sir, Maam, Mr. So and So, etc. It's just a polite thing to do.

4. Just ask for one autograph, don't hand a player a handful of cards or items.

5. Don't ask for an autograph if a person is:

- In the bathroom;
- eating a meal;
- greeting friends or family.

6. Don't be offended if you are turned down. Some players don't like to sign autographs, or you may have just caught someone in a hurry or at a bad time.

7. Never ever be rude. Thank the player, coach or support person and wish them the best for the season.

8. Never ever enter an area or facility if you do not have permission to enter.

These suggestions are very easy to follow and not only can you make a positive impression on the individual you are meeting, you might also educate others around you.

Autographs are a great collectable but they should mean far more then that. They should represent something personal to you, they should trigger a memory of a time and a place where you may have met one of your heroes.

Good luck and always have a pen, or felt tip, handy!

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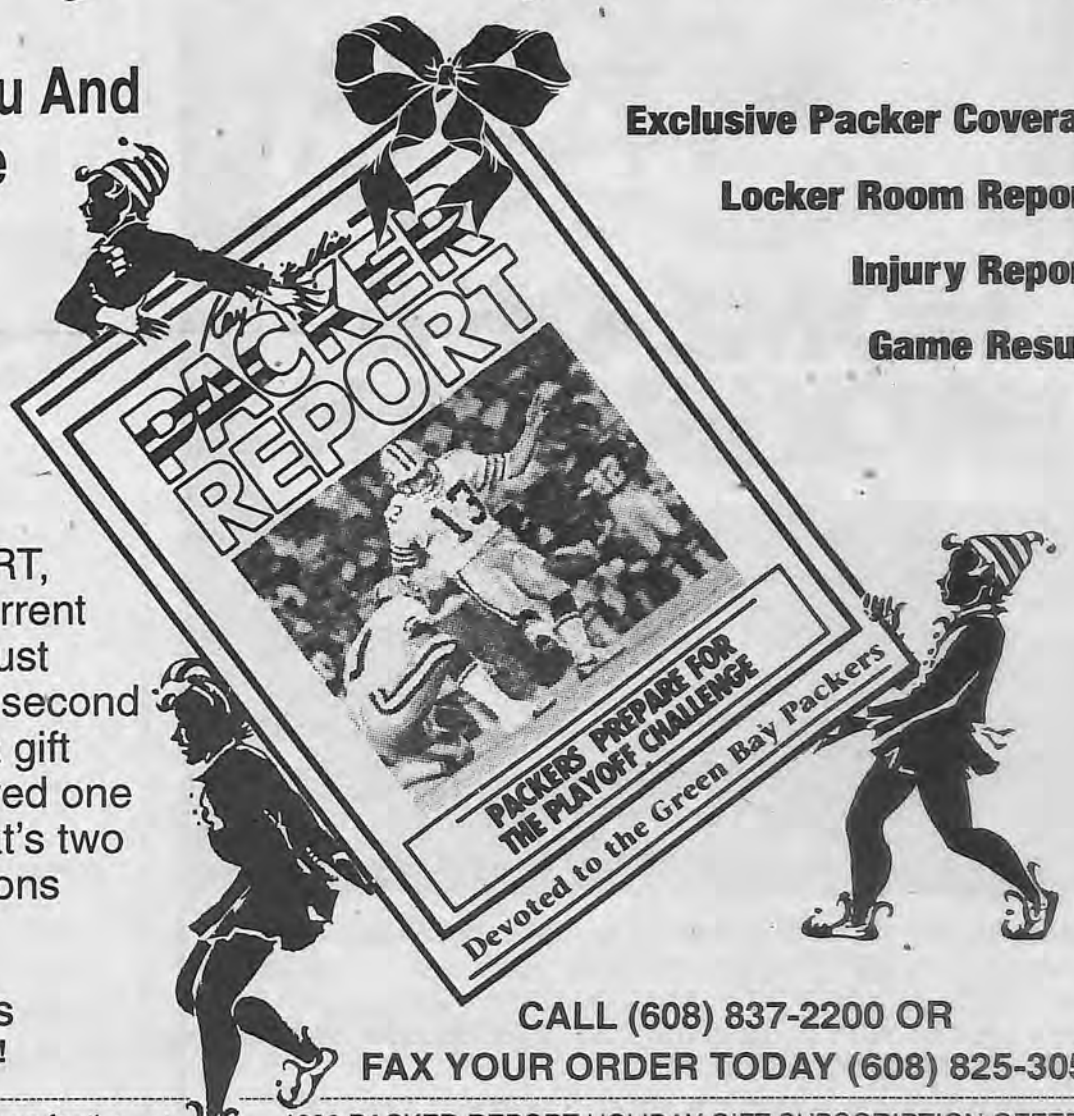

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